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ABSTRACT

This data book for 1995 describes the condition of children in each of Mississippi's 82 counties. The conditions of neighborhoods in Mississippi's counties are examined as indicators of poverty. It is suggested that one of every six Mississippi children are growing in severely distressed neighborhoods. Additionally this data book provides county specific trend data on 11 indicators of child well-being: (1) low birth-weight; (2) infant mortality; (3) poverty; (4) nutrition, examining the participation in WIC, the special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children and students eligibility for free lunch; (5) births to single teens; (6) single-parent families; (7) child deaths; (8) teen deaths; (9) high school graduation; (10) teen unemployment; and (11) juvenile incarceration. Each indicator is described and analyzed. Demographic information and statistics for the state data and the top ten counties are presented for each indicator. A detailed neighborhood table provides the numbers of children living in the severely distressed neighborhoods. Tables with comparative data for previous years from selected counties are included as well as suggestions on what neighborhoods and communities can do to reduce childhood hunger and undernutrition. (AA)

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VOLUME II

# Deepest Spring in the Heart

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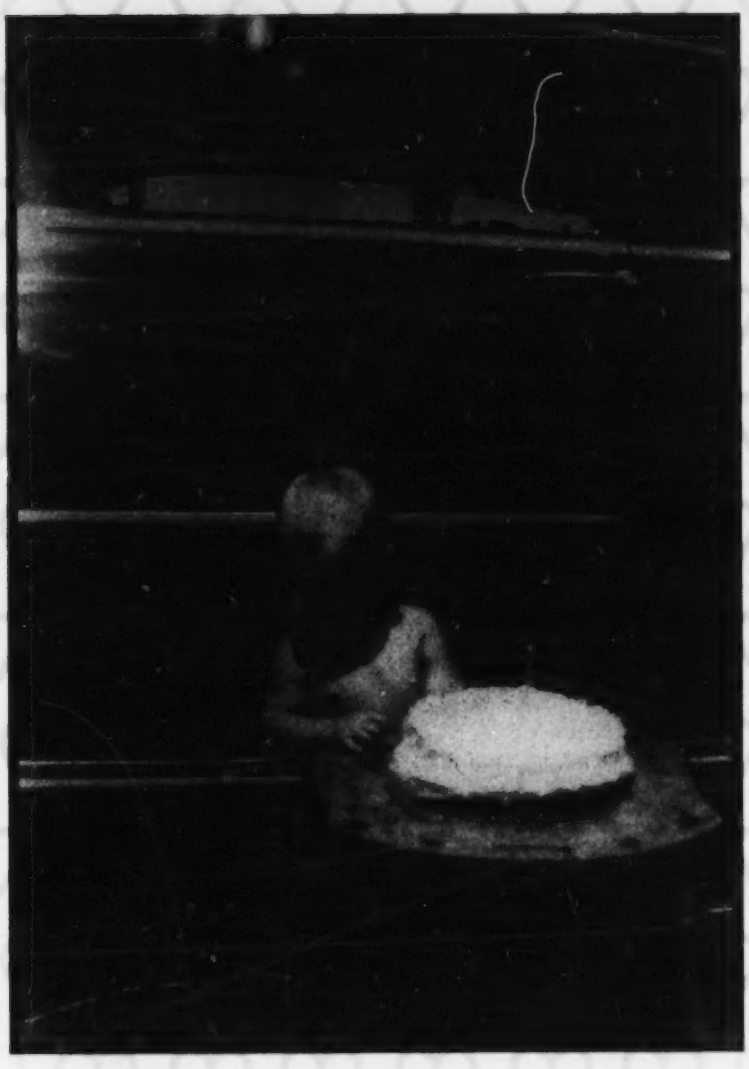
## KIDS COUNT Mississippi 1995 Data Book

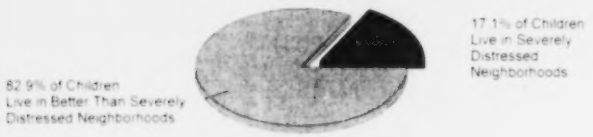
PS 024958



Larry Brown celebrates his first birthday.

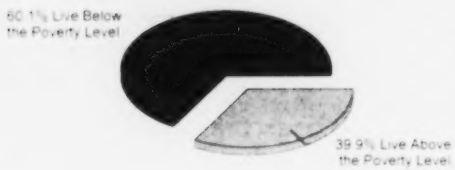
**More Than 1 in 6 Mississippi Children Live in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods**

*Percentage of Children Living in Census Tracts/Block Numbering Areas with High Incidence of Poverty, Female-Headed Households, Dropouts, Unemployment and Reliance on Welfare: 1990*


17.1% of Children Live in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods
82.9% of Children Live in Better Than Severely Distressed Neighborhoods

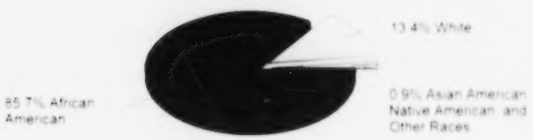
**3 in 5 Children Living in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods Live in Poverty**

*Percentage of Children Living in Census Tracts/ Block Numbering Areas by Race Living Below the Poverty Level: 1990*




**6 in 7 Children Living in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods Are Children of Color**

*Percentage of Children Living in Census Tracts/ Block Numbering Areas by Race: 1990*




Neighborhoods can be the entire world to a child. In their neighborhood, they have family and friends. Through their daily routines, children come to know the important people and places in their community—the local grocery, a family child care home, school, church and the doctor's office.

Mississippi's children live in a variety of neighborhoods—rural Delta communities, small friendly towns like Hazlehurst and the busy city blocks of Jackson—interesting neighborhoods that celebrated Mississippi playwrights have shared with the world on stage and on film.

But children don't choose the neighborhoods that shape their lives, and one in three Mississippi children certainly does not choose to grow up in poverty.

For some years, researchers have sought to define and measure the effects growing up in poverty have on children. Although behaviors play an important part in the lives of poor people, behaviors are not as easily measured as economic status. Studies consequently have focused more on economic indicators that are measurable—income, employment, poverty. These measures can be directly related to the neighborhoods and communities where children live and grow.

### Severely Distressed Neighborhoods

More than one of every six Mississippi children—a total of 128,437—are growing up in severely distressed neighborhoods. Sixty percent—76,383—of these children live in poverty. These neighborhoods are located in 36 counties across the state, but each neighborhood is marked by high percentages of four or more of five distinct characteristics:

- poverty (above 27.5 percent),
- female-headed households (above 39.6 percent),
- high school dropouts (above 23.3 percent),
- unemployment (above 46.5 percent), and
- reliance on welfare (above 17.0 percent).

Nationwide data collection by the KIDS COUNT project identified 3,885 Census tracts or block numbering areas across the nation meeting the criteria for severely distressed neighborhoods. These data, based on 1990 Census information, identified 102 of Mississippi's 581 Census tracts and block numbering areas as severely distressed neighborhoods.

Census tracts and block numbering areas are smaller divisions of counties created for Census counting purposes. They are drawn to create similar population numbers. A large city might have 12 tracts within its city limits and a rural, sparsely populated county might have only two tracts for the entire county.

Mississippi is still considered a rural state—47.1 percent of its population is urban, 52.9 percent is rural. Severely distressed neighborhoods exist in both rural and urban areas of the state. There are distressed neighborhoods in Jackson, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Greenwood and Greenville as well as Jonestown, Lucedale and Macon. In four cases, the entire county has been classified as a severely distressed neighborhood—Holmes, Jefferson, Tunica and Wilkinson.

A detailed neighborhood table provides the numbers of children living in or living in poverty in the severely distressed neighborhoods. Because the county level is the most often used area of measure, the five key distressed neighborhood measures are given at the more manageable county level. Since counties are a combination of tracts and blocks, the alarming data found in severely distressed neighborhoods may not be completely reflected in the county data. Yet some of the combined county data still mirror the problems of their severely distressed neighborhoods.

### This Data Book

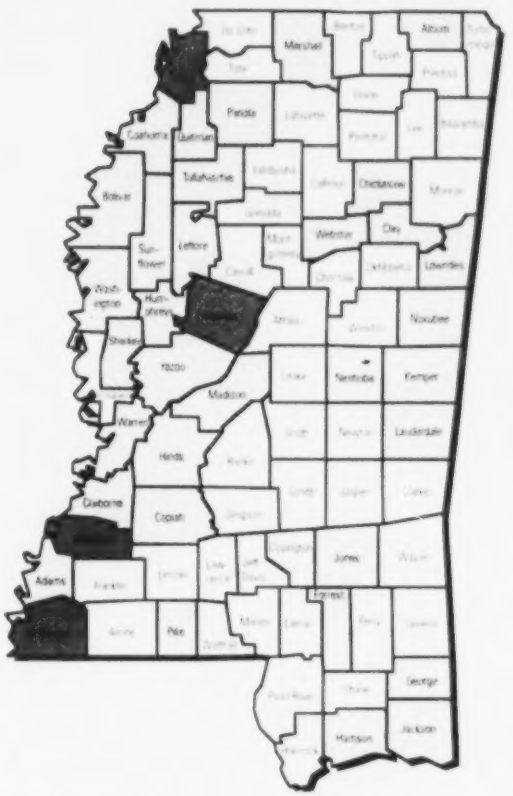
The 1995 KIDS COUNT Mississippi Data Book provides county specific trend data on 11 indicators for Mississippi's children. Nine of the indicators provide continued trends on indicators used last year. Because the poverty data based on the 1990 Census has not changed, a new measure—the percentage of county population receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children—has been added.

The measure of the percentage of teens ages 16 to 19 not in school and not in the labor force used last year is also 1990 Census data that has not changed. It has been replaced for this year by the more current state annual average unemployment rates which addresses unemployment for all ages.

The 1995 KIDS COUNT Mississippi Data Book should be used with the 1994 data book to study trends and to access other data not included this year.

**32 Counties Have Severely Distressed Neighborhoods and 4 Counties Are Considered Severely Distressed Neighborhoods in Their Entirety**

*Census Tracts/Block Numbering Areas with High Incidence of Poverty, Female-Headed Households, Dropouts, Unemployment and Reliance on Welfare, 1990*




County with at Least 1 Severely Distressed Neighborhood

Entire County Considered a Severely Distressed Neighborhood

## Selected Severely Distressed Neighborhood and County Data

| | Total Number of Children Living in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods | Children Living in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods as a Percent of Total County Child Population | Number of Children Living in Poverty in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods | Percent of All Children in County Living in Poverty | Percent Female-Headed Families in County | Percent High School Dropouts in County | Percent County Males Over Age 16 in Labor Force Employed Less Than 26 Weeks Per Year | Percent Families Receiving Public Assistance in County |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 |
| Mississippi | 128,437 | 17.2 | 76,383 | 33.5 | 20.9 | 11.8 | 17.8 | 13.2 |
| Adams | 2,401 | 23.0 | 1,458 | 42.1 | 27.4 | 10.6 | 18.2 | 14.7 |
| Alcorn | 644 | 8.0 | 190 | 25.3 | 14.1 | 14.6 | 13.9 | 25.9 |
| Amite | | | | 37.8 | 19.3 | 11.8 | 20.0 | 31.5 |
| Attala | | | | 37.7 | 19.7 | 11.1 | 19.4 | 33.0 |
| Benton | | | | 41.2 | 19.9 | 27.0 | 17.7 | 32.5 |
| Bolivar | 11,082 | 78.0 | 6,872 | 54.7 | 35.5 | 11.7 | 22.7 | 25.8 |
| Calhoun | | | | 27.0 | 16.3 | 19.9 | 14.5 | 27.8 |
| Carroll | | | | 37.3 | 16.1 | 18.0 | 16.0 | 30.1 |
| Chickasaw | | | | 26.0 | 20.9 | 16.0 | 13.2 | 23.4 |
| Choctaw | | | | 29.2 | 15.3 | 10.5 | 17.4 | 29.0 |
| Claiborne | 1,789 | 56.0 | 847 | 52.1 | 31.6 | 5.7 | 46.8 | 21.2 |
| Clarke | | | | 30.9 | 21.4 | 14.1 | 15.1 | 12.0 |
| Clay | 1,358 | 21.0 | 888 | 33.3 | 23.8 | 13.1 | 15.5 | 14.6 |
| Coahoma | 5,496 | 51.0 | 3,770 | 57.7 | 36.0 | 14.0 | 21.4 | 25.7 |
| Copiah | 2,006 | 24.0 | 950 | 41.4 | 25.8 | 14.3 | 19.6 | 15.6 |
| Covington | | | | 40.1 | 18.2 | 17.7 | 18.5 | 16.0 |
| DeSoto | | | | 13.7 | 13.1 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 5.6 |
| Forrest | 5,268 | 30.0 | 3,033 | 36.4 | 24.1 | 8.2 | 23.8 | 11.7 |
| Franklin | | | | 46.0 | 18.4 | 9.6 | 27.4 | 13.0 |
| George | 675 | 13.0 | 325 | 33.3 | 12.9 | 12.8 | 16.9 | 10.3 |
| Greene | | | | 32.2 | 15.3 | 12.5 | 17.9 | 14.6 |
| Grenada | | | | 28.1 | 21.6 | 14.0 | 14.8 | 13.2 |
| Hancock | | | | 30.9 | 13.3 | 13.5 | 22.2 | 9.2 |
| Harrison | 2,694 | 6.0 | 1,372 | 26.6 | 18.0 | 11.0 | 16.6 | 9.2 |
| Hinds | 15,697 | 22.0 | 9,221 | 29.2 | 26.7 | 7.5 | 17.2 | 10.7 |
| Holmes | 7,571 | 100.0 | 5,185 | 68.0 | 40.2 | 11.2 | 26.7 | 32.8 |
| Humphreys | 3,244 | 75.0 | 1,933 | 60.0 | 33.2 | 23.6 | 18.1 | 24.0 |
| Issaquena | | | | 62.3 | 19.6 | 14.0 | 21.6 | 16.6 |
| Itawamba | | | | 15.8 | 10.0 | 14.1 | 14.3 | 7.8 |
| Jackson | 1,654 | 5.0 | 854 | 22.2 | 16.5 | 9.6 | 15.7 | 7.7 |
| Jasper | | | | 36.5 | 20.2 | 8.6 | 19.6 | 17.2 |
| Jefferson | 3,065 | 100.0 | 1,647 | 54.0 | 35.4 | 13.4 | 28.5 | 26.0 |
| Jeff Davis | | | | 41.2 | 22.4 | 9.8 | 24.4 | 15.6 |
| Jones | 3,539 | 21.0 | 1,817 | 31.2 | 17.8 | 10.0 | 15.0 | 11.6 |
| Kemper | 1,696 | 55.0 | 916 | 46.5 | 23.3 | 14.7 | 21.2 | 17.6 |
| Lafayette | | | | 24.2 | 17.1 | 5.1 | 40.8 | 7.9 |
| Lamar | | | | 22.9 | 13.4 | 10.0 | 16.3 | 7.0 |
| Lauderdale | 4,782 | 23.0 | 2,958 | 31.9 | 22.5 | 11.0 | 15.5 | 11.5 |
| Lawrence | | | | 36.0 | 17.3 | 8.5 | 27.5 | 15.0 |
| Leake | | | | 35.8 | 18.4 | 14.4 | 21.0 | 12.3 |
| Lee | | | | 19.2 | 16.5 | 15.4 | 12.5 | 7.0 |

| | Total Number of Children Living in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods | Children Living in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods as a Percent of Total County Child Population | Number of Children Living in Poverty in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods | Percent Children Living in Poverty in County | Percent Female-Headed Families in County | Percent High School Dropouts in County | Percent County Males Over Age 16 in Labor Force Employed Less Than 26 Weeks Per Year | Percent Families Receiving Public Assistance in County |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 | 1990 |
| Mississippi | 128,437 | 17.2 | 76,383 | 33.5 | 20.9 | 11.8 | 17.8 | 13.2 |
| Leflore | 8,717 | 73.0 | 5,473 | 53.3 | 33.6 | 14.7 | 22.5 | 21.2 |
| Lincoln | | | | 28.0 | 20.9 | 11.1 | 20.8 | 11.2 |
| Lowndes | 792 | 5.0 | 478 | 29.9 | 21.9 | 10.2 | 13.3 | 11.6 |
| Madison | 3,637 | 23.0 | 2,132 | 35.2 | 24.3 | 12.5 | 14.4 | 14.1 |
| Marion | | | | 38.2 | 19.1 | 14.9 | 24.4 | 13.3 |
| Marshall | 2,227 | 24.0 | 947 | 37.6 | 20.1 | 16.9 | 15.6 | 15.0 |
| Monroe | | | | 28.7 | 19.9 | 16.0 | 13.9 | 10.1 |
| Montgomery | | | | 46.7 | 20.5 | 15.0 | 17.2 | 15.5 |
| Neshoba | 862 | 12.0 | 373 | 34.0 | 18.2 | 12.7 | 16.6 | 12.6 |
| Newton | | | | 25.0 | 18.5 | 10.0 | 17.1 | 10.8 |
| Noxubee | 750 | 18.0 | 447 | 52.4 | 30.4 | 15.5 | 17.5 | 25.1 |
| Oktibbeha | | | | 31.9 | 23.3 | 3.7 | 39.4 | 11.4 |
| Panola | 975 | 10.0 | 500 | 44.9 | 21.2 | 21.6 | 16.4 | 15.4 |
| Pearl River | | | | 27.4 | 15.3 | 11.7 | 20.0 | 11.8 |
| Perry | | | | 38.3 | 17.9 | 10.1 | 17.5 | 12.5 |
| Pike | 1,716 | 15.0 | 1,134 | 43.3 | 23.3 | 9.1 | 17.3 | 13.9 |
| Pontotoc | | | | 19.3 | 13.2 | 17.7 | 16.0 | 7.8 |
| Prentiss | | | | 25.2 | 12.6 | 10.7 | 19.9 | 8.7 |
| Quitman | 1,731 | 50.0 | 852 | 51.8 | 27.0 | 21.9 | 23.6 | 26.1 |
| Rankin | | | | 12.9 | 12.4 | 10.4 | 12.5 | 4.7 |
| Scott | | | | 34.9 | 20.5 | 15.4 | 13.8 | 12.7 |
| Sharkey | 854 | 33.0 | 494 | 59.0 | 33.0 | 9.8 | 23.0 | 27.5 |
| Simpson | | | | 27.3 | 16.6 | 13.0 | 17.2 | 11.2 |
| Smith | | | | 30.8 | 13.8 | 10.4 | 17.1 | 9.7 |
| Stone | | | | 34.7 | 14.3 | 11.0 | 22.8 | 10.0 |
| Sunflower | 3,607 | 35.0 | 2,407 | 54.3 | 32.3 | 17.0 | 29.8 | 21.7 |
| Tallahatchie | 2,281 | 45.0 | 1,415 | 53.9 | 27.2 | 15.9 | 22.0 | 24.2 |
| Tate | | | | 31.0 | 17.2 | 13.0 | 18.4 | 11.2 |
| Tippah | | | | 28.2 | 13.8 | 13.2 | 14.8 | 12.5 |
| Tishomingo | | | | 23.9 | 11.2 | 22.0 | 16.7 | 9.1 |
| Tunica | 3,087 | 100.0 | 2,033 | 67.3 | 32.9 | 22.8 | 23.1 | 26.2 |
| Union | | | | 18.1 | 11.8 | 15.4 | 12.7 | 6.7 |
| Walthall | | | | 44.9 | 17.1 | 11.9 | 20.2 | 18.2 |
| Warren | 3,863 | 27.0 | 2,131 | 29.1 | 22.5 | 10.9 | 15.0 | 11.3 |
| Washington | 11,890 | 52.0 | 7,194 | 44.9 | 29.3 | 16.8 | 17.7 | 18.9 |
| Wayne | | | | 38.4 | 19.4 | 12.9 | 16.9 | 17.8 |
| Webster | 600 | 22.0 | 349 | 31.2 | 17.4 | 11.3 | 19.2 | 15.5 |
| Wilkinson | 2,947 | 100.0 | 1,519 | 51.5 | 29.9 | 14.6 | 14.1 | 22.4 |
| Winston | | | | 37.4 | 20.9 | 8.7 | 13.7 | 16.0 |
| Yalobusha | | | | 31.5 | 21.0 | 10.5 | 13.8 | 15.4 |
| Yazoo | 3,240 | 39.0 | 2,233 | 52.5 | 29.0 | 15.4 | 20.0 | 19.8 |

Elizabeth Spencer as a young girl.

| Counties with Highest Percentage of Low Birth-weight Babies Born in 1994 | |
|---|---|
| Benton | 22.2 |
| Panola | 14.1 |
| Copiah | 13.8 |
| Simpson | 13.8 |
| Quitman | 13.7 |
| Tallahatchie | 13.6 |
| Coahoma | 13.4 |
| Marshall | 13.4 |
| Holmes | 13.0 |
| Tippah | 12.9 |
| Hinds | 12.7 |
| Yazoo | 12.3 |

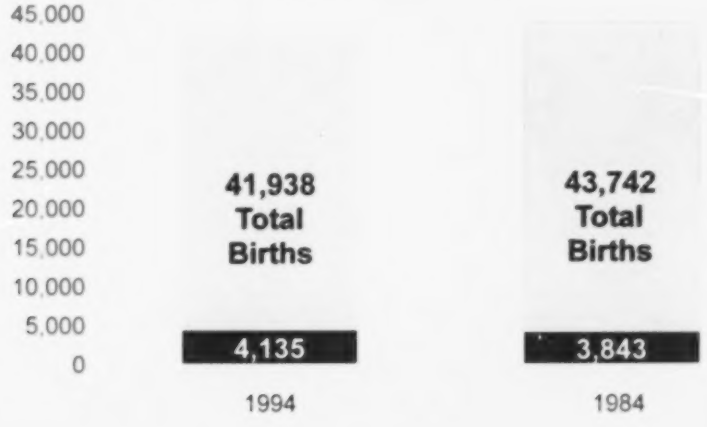
## Low Birthweight

Babies born too soon or too small often struggle with chronically poor health and poor outcomes in school. Their mothers may be young or may not have taken adequate care of themselves during pregnancy. Nationally, Mississippi ranks 50th in the percentage of low birth-weight babies born—9.9 percent for Mississippi, compared to 7.1 percent for the nation, according to 1992 data from the national 1995 KIDS COUNT Data Book.

The most recent county-level data for Mississippi shows 9.9 percent—one in ten—of the babies born in 1994 were low birth-weight babies. In Benton County, the county with the highest percentage of low birth-weight births, 22.2 percent of the babies born weighed less than 2,500 grams or about 5 and a half pounds. Only 13 Mississippi counties have percentages better than the 1992 national average of 7.1 percent. Issaquena County had the best percentage of low birth-weight births at 4.5 percent followed in order by Perry, Pearl River, Clarke, George, Stone, Hancock, Tate, Marion, Carroll, Pontotoc, Webster and Lafayette.

**1 in 10 Babies Born in 1994 Was a Low Birth-weight Baby, Less Than 1 in 11 Babies Born in 1984 Was a Low Birth-weight Baby**

*Number of Low Birth-weight Births Compared to the Number of All Births, 1994 and 1984*



## Infant Mortality

Nothing is more heart-wrenching than the death of a baby. And in Mississippi large numbers of babies die in their first year of life. These deaths can be caused by their health, the health of their mother, their living conditions and the care they receive. In the 1995 national KIDS COUNT Data Book, Mississippi ranks 50th in infant mortality. The Mississippi infant mortality rate using 1992 data was 11.9. The national rate for that year was 8.5.

In more recent state and county-level data available for 1994, only 15 counties had infant mortality rates better than the nation. Coahoma County had the worst infant mortality rate in the state at 19.6, a rate double that of the nation. George County had the best rate, 3.2. Other counties with rates above the national average were Amite, Itawamba, Issaquena, Pike, Tippah, Jones, Rankin, Lincoln, Pearl River, Hancock, Wilkinson, Oktibbeha, Walthall and DeSoto.

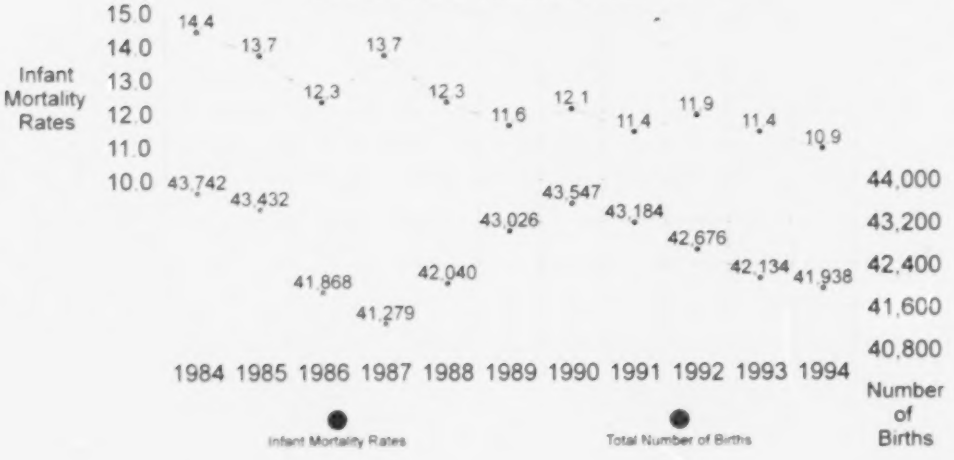
The infant mortality rate measures the number of deaths of infants less than one year of age, per 1,000 live births. County infant mortality rates are calculated for a five year average to allow for more accurate rates in small populations.

**Counties with Highest Percentage of Low Birth-weight Babies Born in 1994**

| | |
|---|---|
| Coahoma | 19.6 |
| Calhoun | 18.7 |
| Noxubee | 17.9 |
| Union | 17.7 |
| Leflore | 17.1 |
| Humphreys | 16.8 |
| Tunica | 16.8 |
| Marshall | 16.6 |
| Perry | 16.1 |
| Neshoba | 16.1 |
| Webster | 15.8 |
| Quitman | 15.3 |

***Infant Mortality Rates Declined 25%, While Total Births Declined Only 4% from 1984 to 1994***

*Infant Mortality Rates Per 1,000 Live Births and Total Number of Births, 1984-1994*



MISS IDA B. WELLS

My folks brought me up to know the importance of family. It's a good thing they did too, because when I was sixteen years old, the Yellow Fever Epidemic took their lives. It was left up to me to take care of the other children. Time was hard. The Thirty-Third Degree Masons came to our aid.

— *Miss Ida B. Wells*

Endesha Ida Mae Holland

Greenwood

Endesha Ida Mae Holland in a birthday outfit!

| Counties with Highest Percentage of Population Receiving AFDC, June 1994 | |
|---|---|
| Holmes | 18.5 |
| Sharkey | 15.5 |
| Coahoma | 15.3 |
| Humphreys | 13.7 |
| Washington | 13.2 |
| Jefferson | 13.1 |
| Tunica | 12.7 |
| Quitman | 12.2 |
| Bolivar | 12.2 |
| Leflore | 12.0 |
| Sunflower | 12.0 |
| Noxubee | 11.6 |

## Poverty

A newer 1992 poverty measure used in the national KIDS COUNT Data Book ranks Mississippi 49th in the percentage of children living in poverty. This ranking moves Mississippi with 32.9 percent above Louisiana with 34.5 percent. The national average is 20.6 percent.

The comparison of the percentage of population receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children(AFDC) for June 1988 and June 1994 has been used as another measure of need within Mississippi counties. AFDC is provided to eligible families with children under 18 according to their income. Including both money payments and Medicaid benefits, the receipt of AFDC reflects the family's ability to provide care for their children.

In June 1994, 5.8 percent of the state population received AFDC. A total of $83,313,219 in money payments were received for 112,491 children and 41,304 adults in 55,183 families. A trend analysis of county and state data for June 1988 and June 1994 show an overall decline in the use of AFDC, 15 percent for the state as a whole. Holmes County had the highest percentage of population receiving AFDC in June 1994, 18.5 percent. Tishomingo had the lowest percentage, 1.0 percent.

### *15% Fewer People Received AFDC in 1994 Than in 1988*

*Percentage of Families Receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children, June 1988 through June 1994*

Source: MS Department of Human Services Annual Reports, Fiscal Years 1988 - 1994

## Nutrition

Food is one of the basic needs of life, and hungry children are not just found in far away countries. There are hungry children in Mississippi.

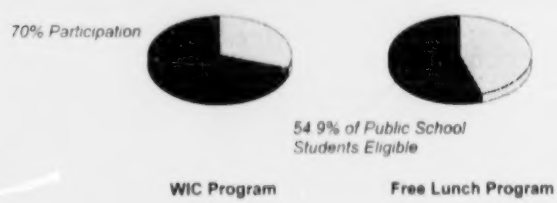
The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children—WIC—and the school food program are two federally funded programs combating hunger at local levels. Each program requires families to meet eligible income standards to participate.

In the current WIC fiscal year, 146,790 mothers, babies and children are potentially eligible to participate in the program. Seventy percent of the project's potentially eligible are being served. Two counties where more than 100 percent of the federally determined potential are being served lead the state in the highest participation rates—Itawamba and Jefferson. Counties with the lowest participation rates—at less than or at 50 percent—are Amite, Carroll and Jackson.

To help feed young minds, the school lunch program provides free or reduced breakfasts and lunches to public school students. Over half of the state's students were eligible in 1994. Jefferson County had the highest percentage of students eligible at 95 percent, while DeSoto County had the lowest number at 23.5 percent.

**7 in 10 of WIC Eligibles Participate in Program, More Than Half of Public School Students Are Eligible for Free Lunch Program**

*Women, Infant and Children Annual Average Participation as Percentage of Potential, June 1995 and Percentage of Public School Students Eligible for Free Lunch Program, 1994*




**Counties with Highest WIC Participation as Percentage of Total Eligible, FYTD 1995**

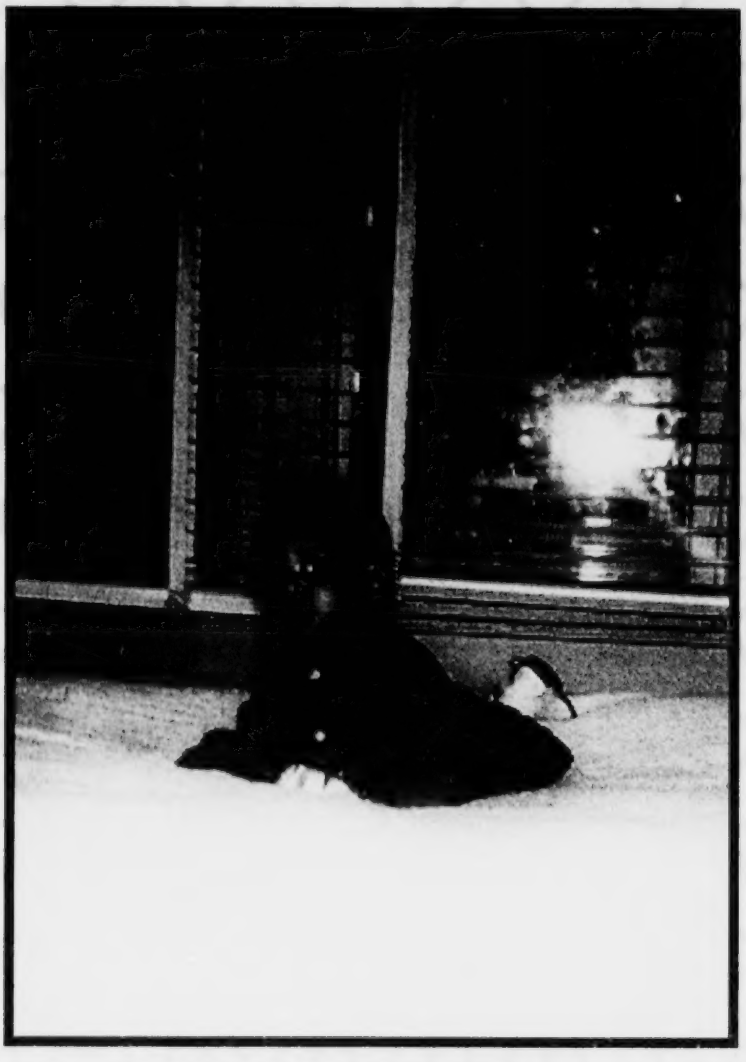
| | |
|---|---|
| Itawamba | 105 |
| Jefferson | 103 |
| Montgomery | 99 |
| Chickasaw | 99 |
| Leake | 98 |
| Stone | 97 |
| Jasper | 96 |
| Quitman | 94 |
| Newton | 93 |
| Lawrence | 91 |
| Leflore | 90 |
| Wayne | 90 |
| Sharkey | 90 |

**Counties with Highest Percentage of Students Eligible for Free Lunch Program, 1994**

| | |
|---|---|
| Jefferson | 95.0 |
| Tunica | 94.1 |
| Sharkey | 93.2 |
| Humphreys | 93.0 |
| Noxubee | 92.0 |
| Quitman | 89.3 |
| Wilkinson | 89.0 |
| Holmes | 87.1 |
| Claiborne | 86.8 |
| Coahoma | 85.9 |

Explain! You wanna
explain to me, lil' ole po' Julia
Marie Jackson, why you, who
s'pose ta be my husband', just
upped and lef' me here with a
whole heap 'a bills ta pay and
young'un ta raise, all by my self.

— *Bluesman*
Charlie R. Braxton
McComb



Charlie Braxton as a baby.

| Counties with Highest Percentage of Births to Single Teens, 1994 | |
|---|---|
| Issaquena | 36.4 |
| Tunica | 34.9 |
| Sharkey | 32.4 |
| Leflore | 31.3 |
| Sunflower | 31.3 |
| Coahoma | 30.4 |
| Tallahatchie | 30.2 |
| Washington | 29.1 |
| Humphreys | 28.4 |
| Bolivar | 27.2 |
| Holmes | 27.0 |

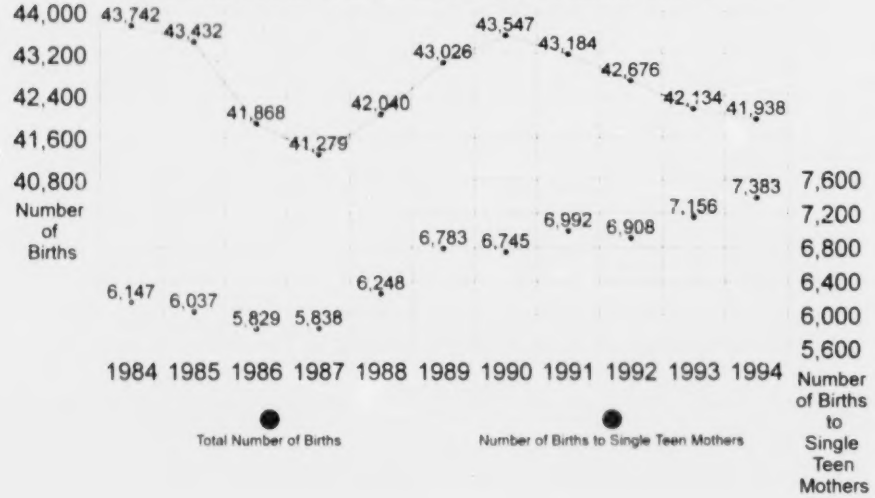
## Births To Single Teens

Mississippi ranked 49th in the nation in the number of births to unmarried teen mothers in the 1995 national KIDS COUNT Data Book. This new measure using 1992 data showed 63 of 1,000 unmarried teens in Mississippi had babies, compared to 43 of 1,000 unmarried teens for the nation.

Using the more familiar percentage of all births that are to single teen mothers, 1994 data from the Mississippi Department of Health shows 17.6 percent or 7,383 births of the total 41,938 births were to unmarried teens. Issaquena had the highest percentage of births to single teens, 36.4 percent. Eight of Issaquena County's 22 births in 1994 were to single teen moms. Tishomingo County had the lowest percentage of births to single teen mothers, 10 of an overall 229 births.

***Births to Single Teens Increased 25%, While Total Births Declined 4% from 1984 to 1994***

*Number of Births to Unmarried Teens Mothers Ages Under 15 to 19 and Total Number of Births, 1984-1994*



## Single-Parent Families

Just because a family is headed by only one parent doesn't mean that family is doomed to poverty. But for some families, especially those headed by younger, less educated women, single-parent families are a risk factor. One low wage earner parent can not provide funds for every need of a growing family.

Mississippi ranks 49th in the percentage of single-parent families in the 1995 national KIDS COUNT Data Book. According to the data book's 1992 figures, 29.9 percent of Mississippi children live in single-parent families. This compares to a national average of 25.1 percent.

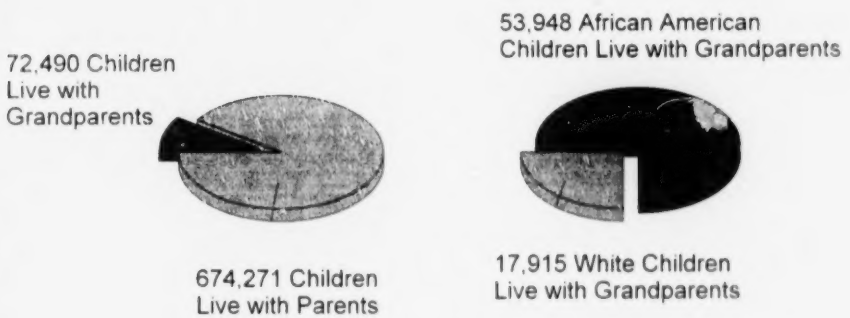
In Mississippi, grandparents often provide a "back-up" system for their grandchildren, especially so in the case of unmarried teen mothers. Nearly one in ten Mississippi children—72,490—lived with their grandparents in 1990. More than four in ten of these grandchildren are under age 5. Almost equal numbers of boys and girls, three out of four of Mississippi's grandchildren living with their grandparents are African American.

**Counties with Highest Percentage of Children Living in Grandparents' Homes, 1990**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sharkey | 22.1 |
| Quitman | 19.3 |
| Tallahatchie | 19.1 |
| Tunica | 18.8 |
| Coahoma | 18.0 |
| Bolivar | 17.5 |
| Sunflower | 17.4 |
| Coahoma | 17.2 |
| Humphreys | 16.9 |
| Noxubee | 16.0 |

**Nearly 1 in 10 Children Live with Grandparents, 3 Out of 4 These Children Are African American**

*Number of Children Living in Grandparents' Homes by Race, 1990*

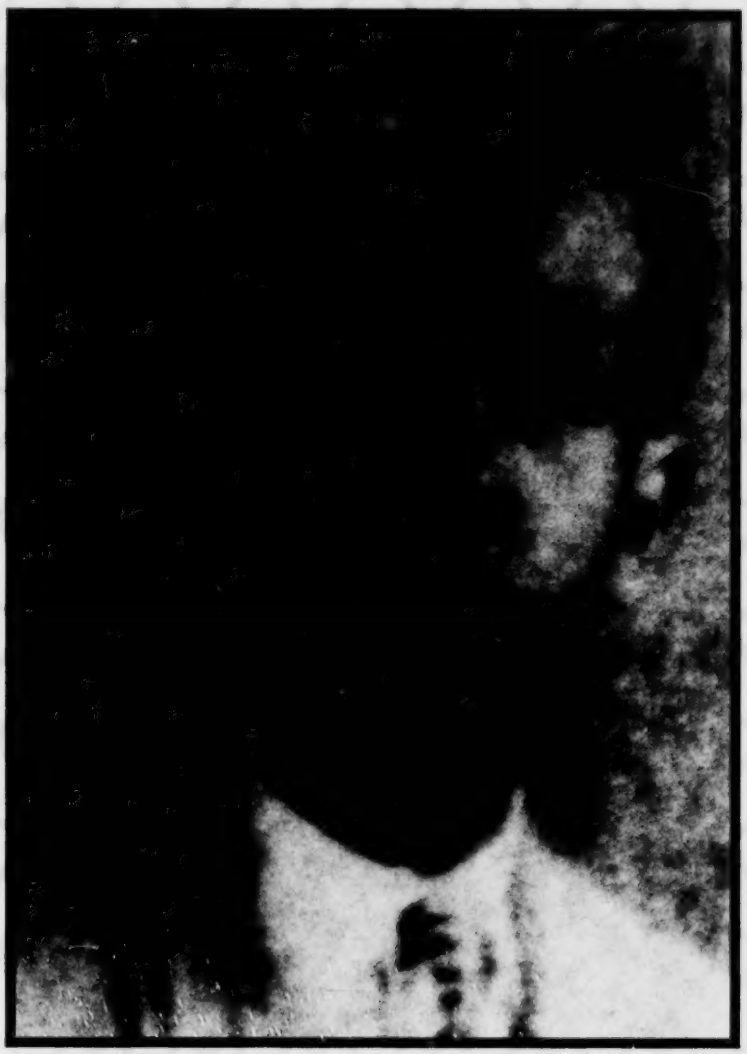

72,490 Children Live with Grandparents
674,271 Children Live with Parents
53,948 African American Children Live with Grandparents
17,915 White Children Live with Grandparents

You killed Clara. Why? She loved you, she was good. You say you killed her.

Yeh. I killed her—

You're not crazy, and there's not that kind of crazy logic in this world. I ask you and all the time you say, "I just did." That's not it, not it.

— *Native Son*
Richard Wright and Paul Green
Natchez



Richard Wright as an eighth grade student
at Smith Robertson School in Jackson.

| Counties with Highest Child Death Rates, 1994 | |
|---|---|
| Webster | 230.8 |
| Issaquena | 210.5 |
| Benton | 156.3 |
| Tunica | 125.5 |
| Yalobusha | 117.5 |
| Franklin | 102.5 |
| Calhoun | 100.1 |
| Chickasaw | 93.5 |
| Tishomingo | 92.9 |
| Simpson | 90.3 |

| Counties with Highest Numbers of Child Deaths, 1994 | |
|---|---|
| Hinds | 22 |
| Rankin | 12 |
| Harrison | 12 |
| Forrest | 12 |
| Washington | 12 |
| Lee | 10 |
| Jackson | 9 |
| Warren | 7 |
| Marshall | 6 |
| Leflore | 5 |
| Lauderdale | 5 |
| Simpson | 5 |
| Webster | 5 |

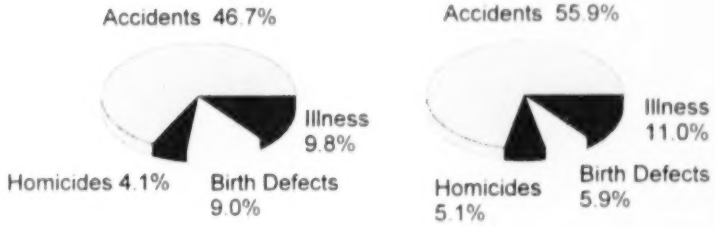
## Child Deaths

Young children die from illness, injury and abuse. Mississippi ranks 50th in the nation in the 1995 national KIDS COUNT Data Book in child death rates for children ages 1 to 14 per 100,000 children. Mississippi's death rate was 44 compared to a national child death rate of 28.8.

In Mississippi, according to 1994 data, 31 counties had a child death rate better than the national average. This included 16 counties with a rate of 0 for 1994. But 51 counties had death rates worse than the national average, with Webster County having the highest rate of 230.8.

The child death rate includes children ages 1 to 14 and is calculated per 100,000 children. Because child death rate formulas take into consideration the population of the age group, numbers of child deaths are listed separately in the large county tables. Hinds County had the largest number of child deaths, 22, followed by Rankin, Harrison, Forrest and Washington with 12 each.

### Child Deaths Ages 1 - 14 by Cause, 1994




Children, Ages 1- 4 | Children, Ages 5-14

## Teen Deaths

Teens die from accidents or illness, or increasingly more violently through homicide. According to the 1995 national KIDS COUNT Data Book, Mississippi ranks 48th in teen violent death rates for teens ages 15 to 19. This state-level data taken from FBI records measures arrests for violent crimes—homicide, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault. Mississippi's rate was 102.0, while the national rate was 66.6

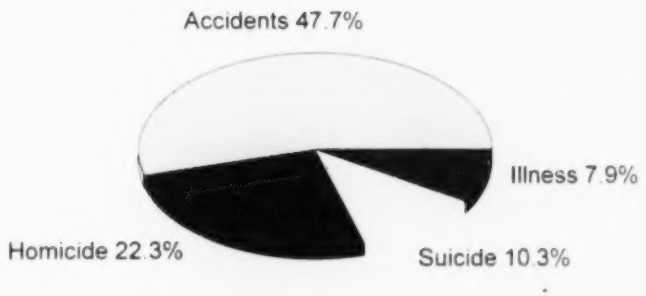
State health department data records all deaths of teens ages 15 to 19 per 100,000 teens. Winston County had the highest teen death rate of 360.6. Hinds County had the highest number of deaths, 33, followed by Madison County with 10. Thirteen counties had no teen deaths in 1994. The pie chart reflects causes of death for ages 15 to 24 according to data recorded by the Mississippi State Department of Health.

**Counties with Highest Teen Death Rates, 1994**

| | |
|---|---|
| Winston | 360.6 |
| Greene | 339.4 |
| Holmes | 271.9 |
| Monroe | 261.8 |
| Madison | 244.0 |
| Jefferson | 242.7 |
| Walthall | 241.7 |
| Tunica | 237.2 |
| Itawamba | 216.8 |
| Tallahatchie | 209.2 |

**Teen Deaths by Cause, 1994**

*Includes Ages 15-24*




**Counties with Highest Number of Teen Deaths, 1994**

| | |
|---|---|
| Hinds | 33 |
| Madison | 10 |
| Monroe | 8 |
| Washington | 8 |
| Warren | 8 |
| Jones | 7 |
| Harrison | 7 |
| Lowndes | 6 |
| Holmes | 6 |
| Winston | 6 |
| Rankin | 5 |
| Lauderdale | 5 |
| Leflore | 5 |

JIM Yep—that's what I judge to be your principle trouble. A lack of confidence in yourself as a person. You don't have the proper amount of faith in yourself. I'm basing that fact on a number of your remarks and also on certain observations I've made. For instance that chumping you thought was so awful in high school. You say that you even dreaded to walk into class. You see what you did? You dropped out of school, you gave up an education because of a chump . . .

— *The Glass Menagerie*
Tennessee Williams
Columbus and Clarksdale

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Tennessee Williams as a teen.

| Counties with Best Graduation Rates, 1994 | |
|---|---|
| Jefferson | 92.8 |
| Perry | 91.9 |
| Noxubee | 91.5 |
| Claiborne | 87.4 |
| Amite | 86.0 |
| Tate | 85.3 |
| Walthall | 85.2 |
| Wilkinson | 85.1 |
| Lafayette | 84.7 |
| Lamar | 84.1 |

| Counties with Worst Graduation Rates, 1994 | |
|---|---|
| Quitman | 52.5 |
| Carroll | 53.4 |
| Benton | 59.0 |
| Sunflower | 61.5 |
| Tallahatchie | 62.6 |
| Grenada | 62.9 |
| Clarke | 63.7 |
| Adams | 64.2 |
| Coahoma | 64.2 |
| Wayne | 64.8 |
| Hancock | 66.4 |

## High School Graduation

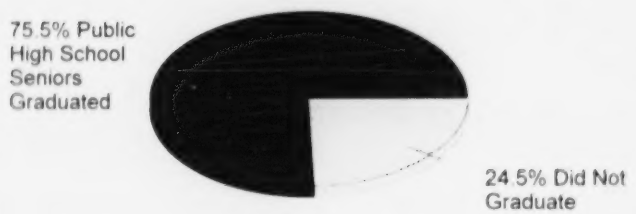
More Mississippians are graduating from high school than ever before, but the percentage of students graduating can fluctuate greatly from community to community, even from school to school.

The 1995 national KIDS COUNT Data Book ranked Mississippi 28th in the percentage of teens ages 16 to 19 who are high school dropouts. The state percentage of 8.8 was better than the national average of 9.3 percent for 1992.

State Department of Education data for 1994 shows 75.5 percent of Mississippi's seniors in public school graduated in 1994—three-fourths. Jefferson County had the best graduation rate for 1994, 92.8 percent. Quitman County had the worst, 52.5 percent. Graduation rates for counties with multiple school districts have been averaged to provide one rate for the county.

### 3 Out of 4 Public School Seniors Graduated in 1994

*Percent of State Public School Seniors Graduating from High School, 1994*



## Teen Unemployment

The 1995 national KIDS COUNT Data Book ranks Mississippi 45th in the percentage of teens not attending school and not working. In Mississippi, according to the data book's 1992 data, 11.9 percent of the state's teens are unemployed. This compares to 9.9 percent for the nation.

County-level unemployment figures have been included in the 1995 KIDS COUNT Mississippi Data Book tables for all ages because these data are unavailable for teens alone.

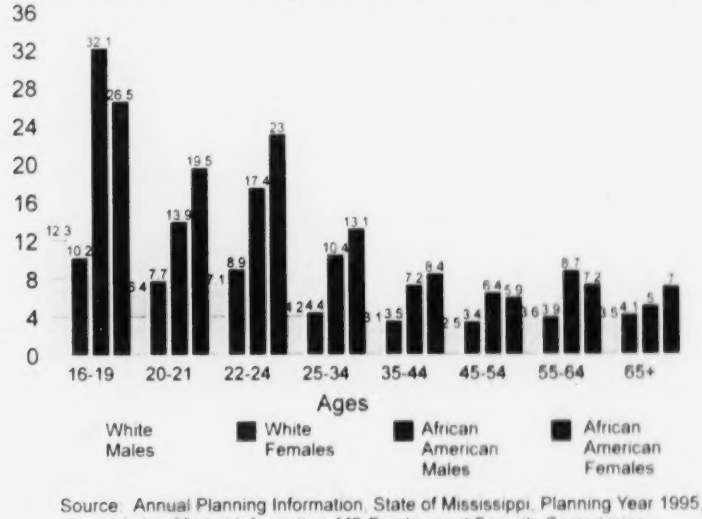
Statewide information for this age group—16 to 19—prepared in November 1994 for the Planning Year Report 1995 by the Mississippi Employment Security Commission estimates there are 183,080 overall in this age group. Of this number, an estimated 70,810 are included in the civilian labor force, with an estimated 38.7 percent working. The Employment Security Commission estimates 17.3 percent of all teens ages 16 to 19 in the labor force will be unemployed in 1995. Of this estimate, 32.1 percent will be African American males, 26.5 percent African American females, 12.3 percent white males and 10.2 percent white females. Teens, both African American and white, have the highest level of unemployment of any age group in Mississippi.

**Counties with Highest Annual Average Unemployment Rates 1994**

| | |
|---|---|
| Humphreys | 20.8 |
| Sharkey | 20.4 |
| Jefferson | 19.2 |
| Issaquena | 17.0 |
| Tallahatchie | 14.7 |
| Claiborne | 13.2 |
| Sunflower | 13.1 |
| Quitman | 13.0 |
| Coahoma | 12.2 |
| Holmes | 12.2 |
| George | 11.6 |
| Greene | 11.6 |

**Teens Have the Highest Unemployment Rates of Any Age Group**

*Unemployment Rates by Age, Race and Sex for Planning Year 1995*




Source: Annual Planning Information, State of Mississippi, Planning Year 1995, Labor Market Information, MS Employment Security Commission

. . . Why, Meg's always run wild—she started smoking and drinking when she was fourteen years old; she never made good grades—never made her own bed! . . . .

— *Crimes of the Heart*
Beth Henley
Jackson

[illegible]

Beth Henley ponders candles and wishes on her birthday.

| Counties with Highest Numbers of Juvenile Incarcerations, FY1995 | |
|---|---|
| Harrison | 186 |
| Hinds | 163 |
| Washington | 114 |
| Lauderdale | 98 |
| Forrest | 91 |
| Lee | 84 |
| Jackson | 83 |
| Coahoma | 81 |
| Warren | 68 |
| Madison | 62 |

## Juveniles

Each year of the six years the national KIDS COUNT Data Book has been produced, juvenile incarceration and arrest rates have worsened steadily in Mississippi, yet our ranking in the nation remains better than in other children's measures. Some experts say juvenile crime is just coming to Mississippi's smaller cities and more rural populations. Others suggest the varied youth and family court systems and rural law enforcement staffs are not able to provide completely accurate information. In the 1995 national KIDS COUNT Data Book, Mississippi ranked 16th in the nation in the juvenile violent crime arrest rate for teens ages 10 to 17 per 100,000 youths.

Each year, thousands of juveniles are involved in youth court case dispositions. In 1993, 12 percent of these cases resulted in a juvenile's incarceration in a state training school or private or public institutions. Youth court cases do not reflect the number of youth involved in cases, because some youth have more than one referral in a year.

**Only 12% of Youth Court Cases Ended in Transfer of Legal Custody in 1993**

*Youth Court Case Dispositions by Method of Handling by Disposition, 1993*

16,535 Cases Waived to Other Courts; Dismissed; Referred to Another Agency or Institution; Juvenile Warned, Counseled, Supervised or Fined
2,191 Cases Ended in Transfer of Legal Custody to Training School, Public or Private Agency or Institution

Source: Youth Court Report, MS Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services

The juvenile incarceration rate measures the number of juveniles ages 10 to 18 per 1,000 juveniles incarcerated in state-supported juvenile facilities. From state fiscal year 1991 to state fiscal year 1995, the number of juveniles served by the state's two training schools increased from 1,587 to 2,168. This number includes only those juveniles served in state-supported juvenile facilities and does not include counts for juveniles served in adult correctional facilities or private facilities.

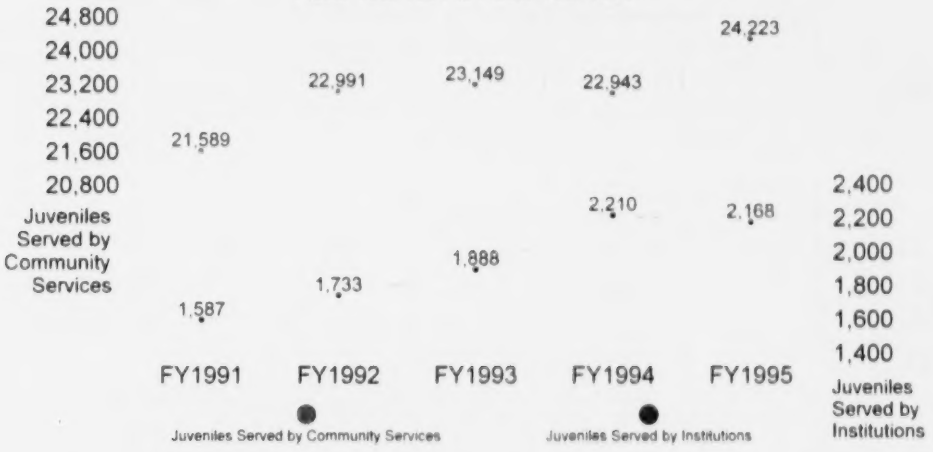
In fiscal year 1995, Harrison County had the largest number of juveniles served in the state-supported schools, 186, with Hinds County following with 163. Four counties—Issaquena, Jefferson Davis, Webster and Wilkinson—had no juveniles served in state institutions. Grenada County had the highest juvenile incarceration rate at 17.6; Lamar had the lowest at 0.2.

**Counties with Highest Juvenile Incarceration Rates, FY1995**

| | |
|---|---|
| Grenada | 17.6 |
| Coahoma | 16.4 |
| Yazoo | 15.2 |
| Montgomery | 12.7 |
| Forrest | 12.0 |
| Marshall | 11.3 |
| Washington | 10.9 |
| Hancock | 10.7 |
| Lee | 10.5 |
| Lauderdale | 10.4 |

***36 % More Juveniles Are Being Served by Institutions, 12% More Are Being Served by Community Services***

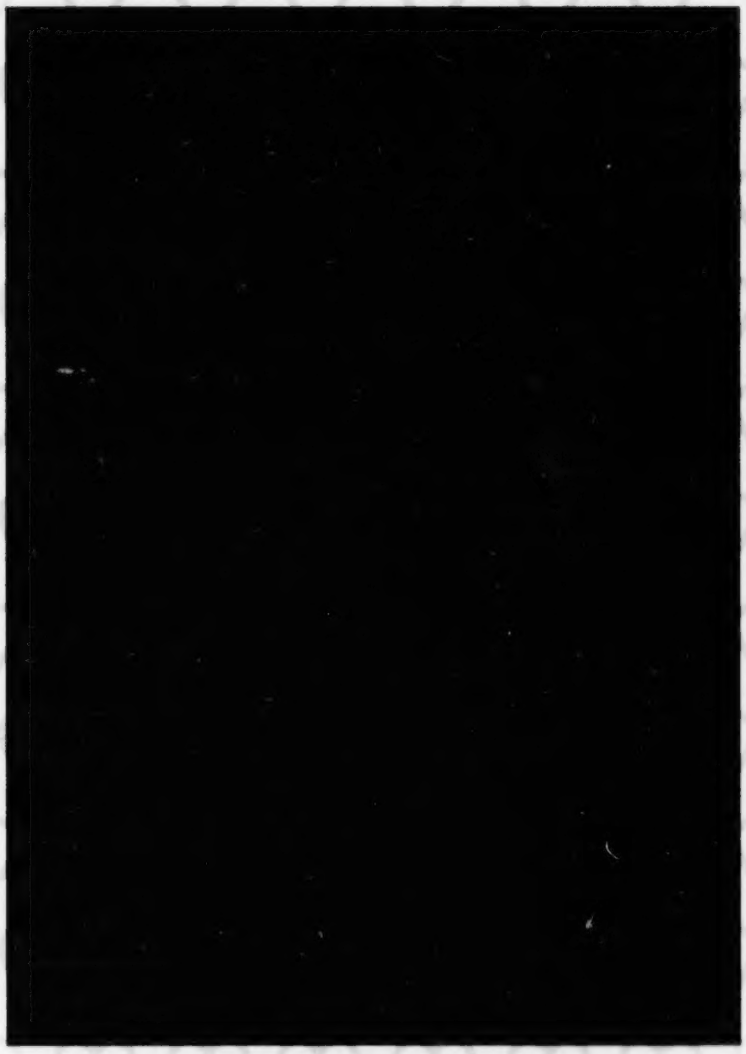
*Number of Juveniles Served by Training Institutions and Comunity Services*
*Fiscal Year 1991 to Fiscal Year 1995*




Source: MS Department of Human Services Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1994, and Information from the Division of Youth Services, MS Department of Human Services

I'm not his aunt, of course. I'm his cousin. But here, cousins of one's mother's age are always aunts. My mother's not his aunt, either. She's his great-aunt. It's hard for me to think of my mother as a great-aunt, though I realize that within a few years, when this sixteen-year-old boy marries and has children, she will become a great-great-aunt, and that will make her sound very old indeed. She's not very old. But she's not very young anymore, either.

— *Two Kinds of People*
Linda Peavy
Brookhaven



Linda Sellers Peavy, age 10, with
grandmother, brother, and two great-aunts.

## Selected Data - Adams County to Lee County

| | Population Under Age 18 | Pop Under Age 18 as % of Total | Estimated Total Population | Low Birth-Weight Births as % of All Births | | % CHANGE | Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 5-Year Average | | % CHANGE | Percent of Population Receiving AFDC | | % CHANGE | WIC Annual Average Participation as % of Potential Eligible | | % CHANGE | Percent Students Eligible for Free Lunch | | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1990 | 1990 | July 1992 | 1994 | 1984 | | 1990-1994 | 1980-1984 | | June 1994 | June 1988 | | 10.94-6.95 | 10.92-9.93 | | 1994 | 1991 | |
| Mississippi | 746,761 | 29.0 | 2,615,208 | 9.9 | 8.8 | 12 | 11.6 | 15.6 | -26 | 5.8 | 6.8 | -15 | 70 | 75 | -7 | 54.9 | 60.4 | -9 |
| **Adams** | 10,242 | 29.0 | 34,749 | 11.6 | 7.8 | 49 | 14.3 | 14.9 | -4 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 0 | 74 | 84 | -12 | 70.2 | 67.7 | 4 |
| **Alcorn** | 8,089 | 15.4 | 32,560 | 8.7 | 8.4 | 4 | 9.8 | 12.0 | -18 | 2.4 | 3.0 | -20 | 63 | 77 | -19 | 33.6 | 34.6 | -3 |
| **Amite** | 3,910 | 29.3 | 13,408 | 8.3 | 9.3 | -11 | 3.5 | 15.4 | -77 | 5.5 | 6.3 | -13 | 43 | 57 | -24 | 78.5 | 78.6 | -0 |
| **Attala** | 5,046 | 27.3 | 18,382 | 10.3 | 7.0 | 47 | 9.0 | 19.1 | -53 | 4.2 | 5.5 | -24 | 86 | 96 | -10 | 64.1 | 64.2 | -0 |
| **Benton** | 2,398 | 29.8 | 7,967 | 22.2 | 20.2 | 10 | 11.9 | 9.4 | 27 | 4.4 | 7.4 | -41 | 62 | 84 | -27 | 72.8 | 76.1 | -4 |
| Bolivar | 14,167 | 33.8 | 41,827 | 10.9 | 10.3 | 6 | 14.4 | 20.1 | -28 | 12.2 | 16.8 | -27 | 72 | 76 | -5 | 85.0 | 84.3 | 1 |
| Calhoun | 3,922 | 26.3 | 14,844 | 11.3 | 6.9 | 64 | 18.7 | 19.6 | -5 | 3.3 | 3.9 | -15 | 76 | 72 | 6 | 54.6 | 52.8 | 3 |
| Carroll | 2,651 | 28.7 | 9,304 | 6.9 | 7.4 | -7 | 13.6 | 13.1 | 4 | 4.3 | 5.7 | -25 | 45 | 45 | 0 | 79.4 | 79.2 | 0 |
| Chickasaw | 5,405 | 29.9 | 18,004 | 10.6 | 10.8 | -2 | 12.6 | 19.1 | -34 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 10 | 99 | 107 | -8 | 58.5 | 55.2 | 6 |
| Choctaw | 2,740 | 30.2 | 9,031 | 8.6 | 9.2 | -7 | 8.5 | 13.6 | -38 | 5.2 | 5.8 | -10 | 75 | 58 | 29 | 56.2 | 56.2 | 0 |
| **Claiborne** | 3,184 | 28.0 | 11,545 | 7.9 | 12.6 | -37 | 12.2 | 17.7 | -31 | 9.8 | 12.6 | -22 | 78 | 87 | -10 | 86.8 | 88.4 | -2 |
| **Clarke** | 5,016 | 29.0 | 17,321 | 5.6 | 9.7 | -42 | 9.0 | 12.9 | -30 | 3.5 | 4.7 | -26 | 72 | 81 | -12 | 54.3 | 53.6 | 1 |
| **Clay** | 6,533 | 30.9 | 21,367 | 8.5 | 11.0 | -23 | 14.8 | 17.4 | -15 | 8.5 | 7.9 | 8 | 68 | 82 | -17 | 78.3 | 72.4 | 8 |
| **Coahoma** | 10,814 | 34.2 | 31,628 | 13.4 | 9.1 | 47 | 19.6 | 26.4 | -26 | 15.3 | 18.3 | -16 | 65 | 65 | -1 | 85.9 | 84.3 | 2 |
| **Copiah** | 8,257 | 29.9 | 27,831 | 13.8 | 9.4 | 47 | 10.7 | 13.4 | -20 | 7.9 | 8.2 | -4 | 67 | 79 | -15 | 75.3 | 74.8 | 1 |
| Covington | 5,105 | 30.9 | 16,524 | 8.7 | 7.8 | 12 | 15.1 | 18.3 | -17 | 3.8 | 7.4 | -49 | 72 | 82 | -12 | 56.5 | 57.1 | -1 |
| DeSoto | 19,612 | 28.9 | 74,020 | 7.3 | 7.4 | -1 | 8.4 | 11.3 | -26 | 1.3 | 2.7 | -52 | 67 | 83 | -18 | 23.5 | 24.3 | -3 |
| Forrest | 17,725 | 25.9 | 69,863 | 10.3 | 8.8 | 17 | 13.7 | 15.9 | -14 | 5.6 | 6.5 | -14 | 61 | 73 | -17 | 47.5 | 48.3 | -2 |
| Franklin | 2,479 | 29.6 | 8,167 | 11.8 | 12.7 | -7 | 12.2 | 18.4 | -34 | 7.7 | 8.5 | -9 | 68 | 105 | -35 | 58.5 | 55.7 | 5 |
| George | 5,049 | 30.3 | 17,213 | 5.6 | 7.8 | -28 | 3.2 | 12.7 | -75 | 3.5 | 4.0 | -13 | 56 | 70 | -20 | 40.3 | 37.2 | 8 |
| **Greene** | 3,072 | 30.1 | 10,717 | 9.4 | 5.1 | 84 | 11.4 | 13.4 | -15 | 4.9 | 7.6 | -36 | 70 | 60 | 17 | 54.0 | 56.3 | -4 |
| **Grenada** | 6,285 | 29.2 | 21,919 | 10.3 | 8.2 | 26 | 9.3 | 12.8 | -27 | 5.2 | 7.1 | -27 | 76 | 104 | -27 | 53.2 | 51.6 | 3 |
| **Hancock** | 8,683 | 27.3 | 33,297 | 6.2 | 7.0 | -11 | 8.2 | 10.4 | -21 | 3.3 | 3.7 | -11 | 65 | 88 | -26 | 52.1 | 53.3 | -2 |
| **Harrison** | 45,488 | 27.5 | 169,612 | 8.4 | 7.2 | 17 | 9.2 | 12.0 | -23 | 3.9 | 4.0 | -2 | 58 | 64 | -10 | 44.3 | 43.7 | 1 |
| **Hinds** | 70,978 | 27.9 | 254,606 | 12.7 | 9.7 | 31 | 11.7 | 14.5 | -19 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 1 | 58 | 68 | -15 | 57.4 | 56.9 | 1 |
| Holmes | 7,571 | 35.0 | 21,292 | 13.0 | 11.3 | 15 | 13.5 | 19.9 | -32 | 18.5 | 21.8 | -15 | 77 | 85 | -9 | 87.1 | 85.6 | 2 |
| Humphreys | 4,346 | 35.8 | 11,916 | 8.9 | 13.1 | -32 | 16.8 | 29.2 | -42 | 13.7 | 13.2 | 4 | 67 | 77 | -14 | 93.0 | 90.3 | 3 |
| Issaquena | 621 | 32.5 | 1,875 | 4.5 | 5.9 | -24 | 6.7 | 22.5 | -70 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 0 | ** | ** | ** | ** | ** | ** |
| Itawamba | 4,863 | 24.3 | 20,115 | 7.8 | 7.0 | 11 | 5.6 | 12.8 | -56 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0 | 105 | 85 | 24 | 25.0 | 31.1 | -20 |
| Jackson | 34,215 | 29.7 | 120,992 | 8.7 | 7.8 | 12 | 10.1 | 11.6 | -13 | 3.9 | 4.4 | -11 | 50 | 53 | -6 | 32.4 | 32.2 | 1 |
| **Jasper** | 5,238 | 30.6 | 17,203 | 10.2 | 9.9 | 3 | 9.4 | 17.4 | -46 | 3.4 | 6.0 | -43 | 96 | 93 | 4 | 72.9 | 73.5 | -1 |
| **Jefferson** | 3,065 | 35.4 | 6,470 | 9.5 | 7.9 | 20 | 11.9 | 13.5 | -12 | 13.1 | 16.4 | -20 | 103 | 114 | -10 | 95.0 | 93.7 | 1 |
| **Jeff Davis** | 4,360 | 31.0 | 13,889 | 11.2 | 8.8 | 27 | 12.5 | 15.1 | -17 | 6.3 | 8.1 | -22 | 72 | 84 | -14 | 80.4 | 79.5 | 1 |
| **Jones** | 16,962 | 27.3 | 62,097 | 9.0 | 8.1 | 11 | 7.8 | 17.3 | -55 | 4.1 | 4.6 | -11 | 70 | 78 | -10 | 56.7 | 57.6 | -2 |
| **Kemper** | 3,073 | 29.7 | 10,179 | 11.5 | 3.6 | 219 | 11.4 | 13.1 | -13 | 4.8 | 5.7 | -16 | 83 | 82 | 2 | 77.1 | 77.4 | -0 |
| Lafayette | 6,609 | 20.8 | 32,242 | 7.3 | 6.7 | 9 | 9.3 | 9.8 | -5 | 1.5 | 2.5 | -40 | 69 | 70 | -2 | 44.2 | 44.1 | 0 |
| Lamar | 9,106 | 29.9 | 31,134 | 9.2 | 5.8 | 59 | 10.7 | 7.6 | 41 | 3.0 | 4.1 | -27 | 55 | 78 | -29 | 43.1 | 42.3 | 2 |
| Lauderdale | 21,182 | 28.0 | 76,279 | 8.4 | 6.9 | 22 | 11.6 | 13.0 | -11 | 5.4 | 6.4 | -16 | 70 | 70 | -1 | 49.5 | 45.6 | 9 |
| Lawrence | 3,758 | 30.2 | 12,375 | 11.3 | 10.8 | 5 | 12.4 | 6.0 | 107 | 4.5 | 5.0 | -10 | 91 | 106 | -14 | 55.6 | 53.1 | 5 |
| Leake | 5,259 | 28.5 | 18,470 | 7.0 | 8.2 | -15 | 13.5 | 19.6 | -31 | 5.1 | 5.3 | -4 | 98 | 87 | 13 | 68.6 | 65.7 | 4 |
| Lee | 18,496 | 28.2 | 68,410 | 9.8 | 9.0 | 9 | 14.2 | 13.2 | 8 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 4 | 63 | 69 | -9 | 38.1 | 36.8 | 4 |

**Note: Percent Change - negative number shows improvement, positive number shows worsening of indicator with the exception of the Graduation Rate where a positive number indicates improvement.**

*County average used for counties with multiple school districts
**Issaquena County data combined with Sharkey County
***No increase in number, or an increase in number from 0 to any higher number, which signifies a 100 percent increase but creates an error in computation.

| Births to Single Teens as % of All Births | | % CHANG E | Child Deaths Ages 1-14 by Number and by Rate (per 100,000 Children) | | | | % CHANG E | Teen Deaths Ages 15-19 by Number and by Rate (per 100,000 Teens) | | | | % CHANG E | Graduation Rate* | | % CHANG E | Annual Average Unemployment Rate | | % CHANG E | Juvenile Incarcerations Ages 10-18 by Number and by Rate (per 1,000 Teens) | | | | % CHANG E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1994 | | 1984 | | | 1994 | | 1984 | | | | | | | | | | FY1995 | | FY1991 | | |
| 1994 | 1984 | | # | Rate | # | Rate | | # | Rate | # | Rate | | 1994 | 1989 | | 1994 | 1985 | | # | Rate | # | Rate | |
| 17.6 | 14.1 | 25 | 240 | 41.2 | 271 | 47.7 | -14 | 240 | 107.7 | 156 | 60.3 | 79 | 75.5 | 73.6 | 3 | 6.6 | 10.3 | -36 | 2,168 | 6.4 | 1,587 | 4.7 | 36 |
| 20.9 | 13.7 | 53 | 4 | 49.5 | 1 | 12.0 | 313 | 2 | 73.5 | 4 | 102.3 | -28 | 64.2 | 52.3 | 23 | 7.6 | 13.1 | -42 | 31 | 6.7 | 27 | 5.9 | 14 |
| 10.7 | 5.6 | 92 | 2 | 32.2 | 2 | 28.4 | 13 | 4 | 162.7 | 5 | 176.1 | -8 | 74.5 | 69.5 | 7 | 8.3 | 17.0 | -51 | 27 | 6.8 | 8 | 2.0 | 237 |
| 14.6 | 15.5 | -6 | 2 | 65.3 | 2 | 64.1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 225.7 | -100 | 86.0 | 70.5 | 22 | 6.0 | 10.8 | -44 | 6 | 3.2 | 5 | 2.7 | 20 |
| 16.7 | 13.3 | 26 | 1 | 25.6 | 3 | 69.3 | -63 | 3 | 203.8 | 2 | 107.2 | 90 | 76.5 | 77.4 | -1 | 8.7 | 15.6 | -44 | 3 | 1.3 | 5 | 2.1 | -40 |
| 13.9 | 9.3 | 49 | 3 | 156.3 | 0 | 0 | *** | 1 | 161.8 | 1 | 116.0 | 39 | 59.0 | 89.5 | -34 | 6.7 | 13.1 | -49 | 3 | 2.7 | 0 | 0 | *** |
| 27.2 | 27.9 | -3 | 3 | 27.2 | 4 | 32.9 | -17 | 4 | 89.5 | 1 | 18.7 | 379 | 71.4 | 73.3 | -3 | 9.5 | 12.1 | -21 | 28 | 4.4 | 28 | 4.4 | 0 |
| 15.2 | 12.1 | 26 | 3 | 100.1 | 1 | 29.4 | 240 | 1 | 85.3 | 2 | 140.1 | -39 | 80.0 | 73.0 | 10 | 5.4 | 11.6 | -53 | 8 | 4.5 | 7 | 3.9 | 14 |
| 19.6 | 18.5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 53.4 | 90.7 | -41 | 7.0 | 7.8 | -10 | 1 | 0.8 | 2 | 1.6 | -50 |
| 19.3 | 10.2 | 90 | 4 | 93.5 | 1 | 24.2 | 286 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 117.7 | -100 | 71.9 | 73.7 | -2 | 8.1 | 11.2 | -28 | 5 | 2.1 | 1 | 0.4 | 400 |
| 12.9 | 18.4 | -30 | 1 | 47.2 | 0 | 0 | *** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 109.9 | -100 | 80.1 | 61.8 | 30 | 8.1 | 13.2 | -39 | 2 | 1.5 | 1 | 0.7 | 100 |
| 21.9 | 15.2 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 40.2 | -100 | 3 | 163.4 | 2 | 121.2 | 35 | 87.4 | 71.9 | 22 | 13.2 | 13.5 | -2 | 2 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.7 | 100 |
| 12.9 | 16.5 | -22 | 2 | 51.1 | 2 | 52.2 | -2 | 2 | 144.3 | 1 | 63.4 | 128 | 63.7 | 69.2 | -8 | 6.2 | 10.8 | -43 | 9 | 3.8 | 3 | 1.3 | 200 |
| 20.0 | 12.3 | 63 | 1 | 19.5 | 1 | 20.5 | -5 | 3 | 154.3 | 1 | 46.4 | 233 | 80.8 | 64.9 | 24 | 10.9 | 11.1 | -2 | 23 | 7.6 | 5 | 1.7 | 360 |
| 30.4 | 29.1 | 4 | 2 | 23.5 | 4 | 42.6 | -45 | 2 | 68.7 | 2 | 47.7 | 44 | 64.2 | 56.5 | 14 | 12.2 | 14.4 | -15 | 81 | 16.4 | 46 | 9.3 | 77 |
| 22.6 | 17.1 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 51.9 | -100 | 4 | 132.4 | 3 | 96.2 | 38 | 77.6 | 85.5 | -9 | 7.7 | 11.1 | -31 | 14 | 3.6 | 13 | 3.4 | 8 |
| 17.7 | 16.3 | 9 | 2 | 50.4 | 1 | 27.2 | 85 | 2 | 143.7 | 0 | 0 | *** | 72.3 | 88.8 | -19 | 6.2 | 12.2 | -49 | 5 | 2.1 | 4 | 1.7 | 25 |
| 10.2 | 9.5 | 8 | 4 | 26.2 | 5 | 36.3 | -28 | 4 | 74.3 | 5 | 85.2 | -13 | 78.8 | 76.5 | 3 | 4.6 | 6.4 | -28 | 57 | 6.5 | 15 | 1.7 | 280 |
| 15.4 | 13.8 | 11 | 12 | 86.7 | 7 | 54.7 | 59 | 4 | 62.1 | 1 | 14.4 | 331 | 82.0 | 70.1 | 17 | 5.1 | 9.1 | -44 | 91 | 12.0 | 104 | 13.7 | -12 |
| 20.0 | 12.7 | 58 | 2 | 102.5 | 2 | 113.8 | -10 | 1 | 149.3 | 0 | 0 | *** | 83.8 | 62.1 | 35 | 7.2 | 12.7 | -43 | 5 | 4.6 | 2 | 1.8 | 150 |
| 10.8 | 4.9 | 119 | 1 | 25.7 | 1 | 26.0 | -1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 66.6 | -100 | 69.6 | 65.7 | 6 | 11.6 | 19.0 | -39 | 14 | 5.9 | 6 | 2.5 | 133 |
| 14.1 | 10.1 | 39 | 1 | 41.8 | 2 | 79.7 | -48 | 3 | 339.4 | 1 | 107.4 | 216 | 68.1 | 65.5 | 4 | 11.6 | 20.3 | -43 | 7 | 4.7 | 0 | 0 | *** |
| 18.8 | 15.5 | 21 | 2 | 41.1 | 3 | 62.4 | -34 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 245.1 | -100 | 62.9 | 60.8 | 3 | 7.0 | 13.1 | -47 | 51 | 17.6 | 35 | 12.1 | 45 |
| 15.7 | 9.7 | 62 | 2 | 29.6 | 4 | 73.0 | -59 | 1 | 41.4 | 3 | 120.0 | -66 | 66.4 | 63.4 | 5 | 6.6 | 7.7 | -14 | 43 | 10.7 | 33 | 8.2 | 30 |
| 13.9 | 8.8 | 58 | 12 | 33.4 | 11 | 33.2 | 1 | 7 | 52.5 | 13 | 73.8 | -29 | 69.4 | 70.4 | -1 | 5.1 | 8.3 | -39 | 186 | 9.7 | 111 | 5.8 | 68 |
| 19.0 | 14.4 | 32 | 22 | 39.5 | 14 | 26.8 | 47 | 33 | 153.0 | 12 | 47.3 | 223 | 82.7 | 78.8 | 5 | 4.9 | 7.0 | -30 | 163 | 5.2 | 136 | 4.4 | 20 |
| 27.0 | 24.0 | 12 | 4 | 67.5 | 8 | 139.5 | -52 | 6 | 271.9 | 3 | 99.4 | 174 | 72.6 | 72.2 | 1 | 12.2 | 15.9 | -23 | 24 | 6.9 | 19 | 5.5 | 26 |
| 28.4 | 23.3 | 22 | 2 | 58.1 | 1 | 27.3 | 113 | 2 | 185.2 | 2 | 123.7 | 50 | 69.4 | 63.4 | 9 | 20.8 | 13.0 | 60 | 8 | 4.2 | 28 | 14.9 | -71 |
| 36.4 | 38.2 | -5 | 1 | 210.5 | 0 | 0 | *** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | ** | ** | ** | 17.0 | 8.4 | 102 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3.5 | -100 |
| 6.5 | 5.4 | 20 | 2 | 54.9 | 1 | 23.8 | 131 | 4 | 216.8 | 0 | 0 | *** | 80.0 | 26.4 | 203 | 4.1 | 9.6 | -57 | 8 | 3.5 | 13 | 5.6 | -38 |
| 15.1 | 8.9 | 68 | 9 | 34.1 | 14 | 48.8 | -30 | 3 | 30.6 | 5 | 41.1 | -26 | 76.4 | 76.1 | 0 | 5.7 | 10.9 | -48 | 83 | 5.2 | 84 | 5.2 | -1 |
| 19.2 | 10.9 | 77 | 1 | 24.7 | 1 | 24.8 | -0 | 2 | 132.5 | 0 | 0 | *** | 70.8 | 68.9 | 3 | 7.7 | 14.0 | -45 | 3 | 1.2 | 3 | 1.2 | 0 |
| 23.1 | 17.5 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 42.8 | -100 | 2 | 242.7 | 0 | 0 | *** | 92.8 | 59.7 | 55 | 19.2 | 19.8 | -3 | 6 | 4.2 | 7 | 4.8 | -14 |
| 19.8 | 15.0 | 32 | 2 | 59.1 | 3 | 84.6 | -30 | 2 | 154.8 | 1 | 72.6 | 113 | 76.7 | 54.8 | 40 | 9.3 | 12.7 | -27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** |
| 16.6 | 9.3 | 78 | 2 | 15.1 | 6 | 47.7 | -68 | 7 | 136.3 | 4 | 67.8 | 101 | 77.4 | 81.8 | -5 | 5.2 | 9.1 | -43 | 37 | 4.7 | 24 | 3.1 | 54 |
| 15.5 | 20.0 | -22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100.1 | -100 | 81.3 | 100.0 | -19 | 8.1 | 18.6 | -56 | 4 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.7 | 300 |
| 17.2 | 10.9 | 57 | 2 | 39.2 | 0 | 0 | *** | 2 | 48.4 | 2 | 58.1 | -17 | 84.7 | 74.1 | 14 | 3.0 | 8.2 | -63 | 17 | 5.6 | 14 | 4.6 | 21 |
| 10.2 | 5.2 | 97 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 18.1 | -100 | 4 | 168.1 | 0 | 0 | *** | 84.1 | 78.8 | 7 | 4.3 | 6.7 | -36 | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.2 | 0 |
| 14.5 | 13.5 | 7 | 5 | 30.4 | 8 | 49.4 | -38 | 5 | 80.6 | 5 | 68.7 | 17 | 83.1 | 80.9 | 3 | 5.7 | 8.4 | -32 | 98 | 10.4 | 82 | 8.7 | 20 |
| 14.0 | 9.0 | 55 | 1 | 34.3 | 2 | 69.2 | -50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 68.4 | 60.9 | 12 | 8.2 | 10.5 | -22 | 2 | 1.1 | 1 | 0.6 | 100 |
| 17.6 | 12.5 | 41 | 3 | 73.1 | 1 | 24.4 | 200 | 2 | 135.0 | 2 | 115.4 | 17 | 69.4 | 71.7 | -3 | 7.3 | 12.6 | -42 | 5 | 2.1 | 8 | 3.3 | -38 |
| 13.0 | 9.1 | 42 | 10 | 69.2 | 8 | 64.8 | 7 | 3 | 61.2 | 4 | 77.5 | -21 | 70.1 | 63.1 | 11 | 4.6 | 9.2 | -50 | 84 | 10.5 | 61 | 7.6 | 38 |

## Selected Data - Leflore County to Yazoo County

| | Population Under Age 18 | Pop. Under Age 18 as % of Total | Estimated Total Population | Low Birth-Weight Births as % of All Births | | % CHANGE | Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 5-Year Average | | % CHANGE | Percent of Population Receiving AFDC | | % CHANGE | WIC Annual Average Participation as % of Potential Eligible | | % CHANGE | Percent Students Eligible for Free Lunch | | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1990 | 1990 | July 1992 | 1994 | 1984 | | 1990-1994 | 1980-1984 | | June 1994 | June 1988 | | 10-94 6-95 | 10-92 9-93 | | 1994 | 1991 | |
| Mississippi | 746,761 | 29.0 | 2,615,208 | 9.9 | 8.8 | 12 | 11.6 | 15.6 | -26 | 5.8 | 6.8 | -15 | 70 | 75 | -7 | 54.9 | 60.4 | -9 |
| **Leflore** | 12,012 | 32.2 | 37,477 | 9.4 | 11.0 | -15 | 17.1 | 26.7 | -36 | 12.0 | 12.8 | -6 | 90 | 81 | 11 | 84.5 | 80.1 | 5 |
| **Lincoln** | 8,592 | 28.4 | 30,794 | 8.6 | 5.8 | 48 | 8.0 | 14.4 | -44 | 4.4 | 5.2 | -15 | 83 | 92 | -9 | 50.4 | 50.6 | -0 |
| **Lowndes** | 17,598 | 29.7 | 60,385 | 8.9 | 7.6 | 17 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 0 | 5.6 | 5.9 | -5 | 55 | 61 | -10 | 47.0 | 45.5 | 3 |
| **Madison** | 15,919 | 29.6 | 58,211 | 9.3 | 8.9 | 4 | 9.6 | 17.1 | -44 | 6.7 | 8.6 | -22 | 59 | 58 | 2 | 65.6 | 67.6 | -3 |
| **Marion** | 7,786 | 30.5 | 25,412 | 6.8 | 12.6 | -46 | 10.8 | 10.9 | -1 | 6.2 | 6.5 | -5 | 84 | 69 | 22 | 61.1 | 61.4 | -0 |
| Marshall | 9,094 | 30.0 | 31,364 | 13.4 | 11.2 | 20 | 16.6 | 13.6 | 22 | 6.3 | 7.3 | -14 | 82 | 76 | 8 | 79.0 | 79.4 | -1 |
| Monroe | 10,490 | 28.7 | 36,681 | 11.0 | 10.8 | 2 | 13.5 | 17.1 | -21 | 3.5 | 4.8 | -27 | 76 | 81 | -6 | 48.1 | 47.8 | 1 |
| Montgomery | 3,534 | 28.5 | 12,228 | 10.8 | 10.6 | 2 | 14.3 | 16.3 | -12 | 5.3 | 9.3 | -43 | 99 | 97 | 1 | 65.8 | 63.7 | 3 |
| Neshoba | 7,405 | 29.9 | 25,410 | 9.8 | 7.1 | 38 | 16.1 | 12.3 | 31 | 4.1 | 4.2 | -2 | 74 | 77 | -4 | 46.9 | 48.3 | -3 |
| Newton | 5,582 | 27.5 | 20,646 | 7.5 | 8.5 | -12 | 10.6 | 10.3 | 3 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 0 | 93 | 77 | 21 | 50.1 | 49.7 | 1 |
| **Noxubee** | 4,264 | 33.8 | 12,514 | 8.8 | 10.3 | -15 | 17.9 | 16.3 | 10 | 11.6 | 14.7 | -21 | 88 | 95 | -8 | 92.0 | 89.7 | 3 |
| **Oktibbeha** | 8,662 | 22.6 | 38,401 | 7.6 | 8.3 | -8 | 8.3 | 16.4 | -49 | 4.4 | 6.7 | -34 | 81 | 82 | -2 | 66.3 | 63.2 | 5 |
| **Panola** | 9,562 | 31.9 | 31,117 | 14.1 | 9.9 | 42 | 13.4 | 19.8 | -32 | 6.7 | 8.9 | -25 | 61 | 72 | -15 | 74.6 | 70.4 | 6 |
| **Pearl River** | 11,204 | 28.9 | 39,879 | 5.5 | 9.1 | -40 | 8.1 | 16.9 | -52 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 6 | 62 | 67 | -8 | 46.3 | 42.7 | 8 |
| **Perry** | 3,405 | 31.3 | 11,091 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 0 | 16.1 | 11.4 | 41 | 5.4 | 6.8 | -21 | 60 | 81 | -25 | 56.3 | 55.2 | 2 |
| Pike | 11,098 | 30.1 | 37,022 | 8.8 | 10.6 | -17 | 6.9 | 18.7 | -63 | 8.3 | 9.3 | -11 | 86 | 78 | 11 | 61.3 | 60.8 | 1 |
| Pontotoc | 6,028 | 27.1 | 22,940 | 6.9 | 8.5 | -19 | 9.5 | 11.6 | -18 | 1.1 | 1.7 | -35 | 62 | 59 | 5 | 33.2 | 31.1 | 7 |
| Prentiss | 6,008 | 25.8 | 23,387 | 10.2 | 7.5 | 36 | 10.9 | 11.1 | -2 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 6 | 72 | 84 | -14 | 39.6 | 40.5 | -2 |
| Quitman | 3,471 | 33.1 | 10,072 | 13.7 | 12.8 | 7 | 15.3 | 24.4 | -37 | 12.2 | 16.0 | -24 | 94 | 78 | 21 | 89.3 | 88.3 | 1 |
| Rankin | 24,102 | 27.7 | 92,182 | 9.5 | 8.1 | 17 | 7.8 | 10.2 | -24 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 31 | 73 | 72 | 1 | 28.9 | 28.3 | 2 |
| **Scott** | 7,285 | 30.2 | 24,401 | 11.1 | 10.4 | 7 | 11.8 | 19.7 | -40 | 4.2 | 5.2 | -19 | 84 | 100 | -16 | 57.6 | 56.4 | 2 |
| **Sharkey** | 2,598 | 36.8 | 6,980 | 10.1 | 14.2 | -29 | 10.0 | 20.1 | -50 | 15.5 | 19.5 | -21 | 90 | 87 | 3 | 93.2 | 86.1 | 8 |
| **Simpson** | 7,085 | 29.6 | 24,143 | 13.8 | 8.2 | 68 | 13.5 | 19.4 | -30 | 3.6 | 3.8 | -5 | 65 | 75 | -13 | 60.2 | 58.4 | 3 |
| **Smith** | 4,203 | 28.4 | 14,791 | 7.3 | 3.5 | 109 | 11.2 | 10.9 | 3 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 8 | 77 | 82 | -6 | 48.1 | 48.1 | 0 |
| **Stone** | 3,062 | 28.5 | 11,285 | 6.0 | 7.9 | -24 | 8.5 | 6.1 | 39 | 6.1 | 6.2 | -2 | 97 | 135 | -28 | 46.1 | 44.3 | 4 |
| Sunflower | 10,445 | 31.8 | 33,787 | 9.5 | 10.6 | -10 | 14.1 | 18.5 | -24 | 12.0 | 13.0 | -8 | 73 | 78 | -6 | 84.0 | 81.8 | 3 |
| Tallahatchie | 5,043 | 33.2 | 14,787 | 13.6 | 12.7 | 7 | 12.1 | 21.3 | -43 | 9.1 | 14.2 | -36 | 87 | 92 | -5 | 80.1 | 82.7 | -3 |
| Tate | 6,282 | 29.3 | 21,847 | 6.4 | 7.2 | -11 | 10.6 | 17.3 | -39 | 4.0 | 6.0 | -33 | 78 | 97 | -19 | 47.2 | 46.6 | 1 |
| Tippah | 5,274 | 27.0 | 19,740 | 12.9 | 6.4 | 102 | 7.8 | 16.6 | -53 | 2.5 | 3.3 | -24 | 62 | 56 | 10 | 44.6 | 45.6 | -2 |
| Tishomingo | 4,171 | 23.6 | 17,936 | 11.8 | 3.2 | 269 | 12.9 | 19.6 | -34 | 1.0 | 1.6 | -38 | 77 | 101 | -24 | 35.8 | 38.5 | -7 |
| **Tunica** | 3,087 | 37.8 | 8,055 | 8.9 | 11.1 | -20 | 16.8 | 28.0 | -40 | 12.7 | 21.0 | -40 | 62 | 66 | -6 | 94.1 | 95.0 | -1 |
| **Union** | 5,834 | 26.4 | 22,422 | 8.6 | 6.1 | 41 | 17.7 | 10.4 | 70 | 1.1 | 1.9 | -42 | 88 | 90 | -2 | 31.5 | 29.6 | 6 |
| **Walthall** | 4,535 | 31.6 | 14,340 | 10.0 | 7.9 | 27 | 8.4 | 14.4 | -42 | 7.7 | 9.9 | -22 | 75 | 85 | -12 | 74.6 | 70.7 | 6 |
| **Warren** | 14,297 | 29.9 | 47,964 | 9.9 | 7.7 | 29 | 13.6 | 19.3 | -30 | 6.4 | 7.7 | -17 | 72 | 75 | -3 | 49.5 | 48.5 | 2 |
| **Washington** | 23,027 | 33.9 | 66,691 | 11.9 | 9.6 | 24 | 11.9 | 17.7 | -33 | 13.2 | 14.7 | -10 | 69 | 64 | 9 | 81.6 | 78.2 | 4 |
| Wayne | 6,097 | 31.2 | 19,500 | 11.6 | 7.9 | 47 | 13.6 | 14.6 | -7 | 6.5 | 9.8 | -34 | 90 | 86 | 4 | 60.7 | 63.2 | -4 |
| Webster | 2,748 | 26.9 | 10,235 | 7.0 | 7.3 | -4 | 15.8 | 20.9 | -24 | 4.0 | 6.1 | -34 | 74 | 89 | -17 | 47.2 | 50.8 | -7 |
| Wilkinson | 2,947 | 30.5 | 9,438 | 8.0 | 11.2 | -29 | 8.3 | 15.8 | -47 | 10.3 | 12.9 | -20 | 73 | 91 | -20 | 89.0 | 86.8 | 3 |
| Winston | 5,714 | 29.4 | 19,505 | 8.0 | 9.8 | -18 | 13.0 | 16.5 | -21 | 6.9 | 8.6 | -20 | 71 | 75 | -5 | 65.1 | 61.4 | 6 |
| Yalobusha | 3,362 | 27.9 | 12,092 | 7.9 | 8.6 | -8 | 13.5 | 11.2 | 21 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 17 | 69 | 87 | -20 | 64.6 | 64.0 | 1 |
| Yazoo | 8,275 | 32.4 | 25,392 | 12.3 | 9.2 | 34 | 13.5 | 23.4 | -42 | 11.2 | 12.5 | -10 | 68 | 73 | -7 | 83.4 | 79.0 | 6 |

**Note: Percent Change - negative number shows improvement, positive number shows worsening of indicator with the exception of the Graduation Rate where a positive number indicates improvement.**

*County average used for counties with multiple school districts
**Issaquena County data combined with Sharkey County
***No increase in number, or an increase in number from 0 to any higher number, which signifies a 100 percent increase but creates an error in computation.

| Births to Single Teens as % of All Births | | % CHANGE | Child Deaths Ages 1-14 by Number and by Rate (per 100,000 Children) | | | | % CHANGE | Teen Deaths Ages 15-19 by Number and by Rate (per 100,000 Teens) | | | | % CHANGE | Graduation Rate* | | % CHANGE | Annual Average Unemployment Rate | | % CHANGE | Juvenile Incarcerations Ages 10-18 by Number and by Rate (per 1,000 Teens) | | | | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1994 | | 1984 | | | 1994 | | 1984 | | | | | | | | | FY1995 | | FY1991 | | |
| 1994 | 1984 | | # | Rate | # | Rate | | # | Rate | # | Rate | | 1994 | 1989 | | 1994 | 1985 | | # | Rate | # | Rate | |
| 17.6 | 14.1 | 25 | 240 | 41.2 | 271 | 47.7 | -14 | 240 | 107.7 | 156 | 60.3 | 79 | 75.5 | 73.6 | 3 | 6.6 | 10.3 | -36 | 2,168 | 6.4 | 1,587 | 4.7 | 36 |
| 31.3 | 21.2 | 48 | 5 | 52.8 | 9 | 90.0 | -41 | 5 | 147.7 | 1 | 21.2 | 597 | 77.1 | 75.8 | 2 | 10.4 | 12.7 | -18 | 51 | 9.4 | 56 | 10.3 | -9 |
| 15.3 | 10.1 | 53 | 2 | 30.3 | 7 | 101.3 | -70 | 3 | 115.1 | 3 | 107.8 | 7 | 81.6 | 92.8 | -12 | 7.6 | 13.7 | -45 | 40 | 9.4 | 42 | 9.9 | -5 |
| 15.4 | 14.0 | 10 | 3 | 21.9 | 9 | 69.9 | -69 | 6 | 123.6 | 2 | 33.8 | 266 | 75.0 | 80.0 | -6 | 6.3 | 8.3 | -24 | 60 | 7.9 | 34 | 4.5 | 77 |
| 14.8 | 17.1 | -14 | 1 | 7.9 | 7 | 69.2 | -89 | 10 | 244.0 | 1 | 22.4 | 989 | 81.8 | 99.7 | -18 | 5.0 | 9.4 | -47 | 62 | 9.3 | 35 | 5.2 | 77 |
| 16.7 | 10.8 | 54 | 1 | 16.5 | 2 | 34.6 | -52 | 3 | 136.1 | 1 | 40.2 | 239 | 72.9 | 76.0 | -4 | 8.3 | 10.5 | -21 | 3 | 0.8 | 7 | 1.9 | -57 |
| 21.6 | 13.3 | 63 | 6 | 83.6 | 5 | 70.3 | 19 | 2 | 73.9 | 2 | 57.2 | 29 | 78.9 | 70.6 | 12 | 8.6 | 13.9 | -38 | 47 | 11.3 | 25 | 6.0 | 88 |
| 16.9 | 11.1 | 53 | 2 | 24.7 | 2 | 24.0 | 3 | 8 | 261.8 | 3 | 87.5 | 199 | 77.5 | 77.1 | 1 | 6.3 | 9.8 | -36 | 16 | 3.3 | 8 | 1.7 | 100 |
| 22.3 | 22.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 1 | 97.8 | 1 | 76.9 | 27 | 73.2 | 67.2 | 9 | 6.8 | 15.7 | -57 | 21 | 12.7 | 4 | 2.4 | 425 |
| 12.6 | 9.2 | 37 | 3 | 52.5 | 1 | 18.3 | 187 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 47.5 | -100 | 75.7 | 78.8 | -4 | 5.8 | 12.7 | -54 | 16 | 4.5 | 11 | 3.1 | 45 |
| 12.8 | 8.9 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 1 | 51.4 | 1 | 49.4 | 4 | 82.0 | 57.0 | 44 | 7.0 | 11.1 | -37 | 7 | 2.6 | 7 | 2.6 | 0 |
| 23.1 | 21.7 | 7 | 3 | 89.4 | 0 | 0 | *** | 1 | 90.7 | 1 | 70.0 | 30 | 91.5 | 94.9 | -4 | 8.3 | 14.9 | -44 | 8 | 4.3 | 6 | 3.2 | 33 |
| 15.6 | 11.6 | 34 | 3 | 44.1 | 2 | 31.0 | 42 | 1 | 20.4 | 1 | 19.6 | 4 | 80.3 | 71.6 | 12 | 4.8 | 7.9 | -39 | 28 | 7.6 | 16 | 4.3 | 75 |
| 23.6 | 18.8 | 26 | 3 | 40.3 | 4 | 59.0 | -32 | 3 | 108.1 | 0 | 0 | *** | 71.3 | 73.7 | -3 | 9.2 | 13.2 | -30 | 15 | 3.4 | 7 | 1.6 | 114 |
| 16.6 | 8.6 | 93 | 3 | 34.2 | 5 | 64.1 | -47 | 2 | 59.4 | 2 | 56.3 | 6 | 72.2 | 75.6 | -4 | 6.3 | 11.1 | -43 | 19 | 3.7 | 6 | 1.2 | 217 |
| 13.3 | 6.7 | 98 | 1 | 38.1 | 3 | 124.9 | -69 | 1 | 103.1 | 2 | 195.1 | -47 | 91.9 | 71.9 | 28 | 8.1 | 14.2 | -43 | 3 | 1.9 | 1 | 0.6 | 200 |
| 21.1 | 15.6 | 35 | 1 | 11.5 | 2 | 24.2 | -52 | 1 | 29.8 | 1 | 28.1 | 6 | 81.0 | 74.7 | 8 | 7.9 | 12.4 | -36 | 32 | 6.0 | 34 | 6.4 | -6 |
| 12.4 | 8.5 | 46 | 3 | 64.4 | 2 | 45.2 | 42 | 1 | 57.7 | 3 | 155.0 | -63 | 83.4 | 77.2 | 8 | 4.3 | 7.6 | -43 | 9 | 3.2 | 2 | 0.7 | 350 |
| 11.8 | 5.1 | 130 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 3 | 138.7 | 0 | 0 | *** | 73.7 | 65.7 | 12 | 6.9 | 11.8 | -42 | 8 | 2.9 | 6 | 2.1 | 33 |
| 26.3 | 20.9 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 2 | 189.0 | 1 | 72.6 | 160 | 52.5 | 44.5 | 18 | 13.0 | 15.7 | -17 | 9 | 5.4 | 5 | 3.0 | 80 |
| 9.2 | 7.0 | 32 | 12 | 63.7 | 5 | 31.3 | 104 | 5 | 75.5 | 3 | 45.8 | 65 | 81.5 | 84.5 | -4 | 3.6 | 5.2 | -31 | 38 | 3.4 | 46 | 4.1 | -17 |
| 20.9 | 14.8 | 41 | 4 | 71.0 | 4 | 69.7 | 2 | 1 | 49.2 | 0 | 0 | *** | 75.6 | 67.4 | 12 | 4.9 | 10.2 | -52 | 28 | 8.5 | 15 | 4.5 | 87 |
| 32.4 | 35.8 | -10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 70.6 | 74.4 | -5 | 20.4 | 18.1 | 13 | 9 | 7.2 | 1 | 0.8 | 800 |
| 13.8 | 8.5 | 63 | 5 | 90.3 | 1 | 18.7 | 383 | 2 | 104.2 | 3 | 136.8 | -24 | 75.6 | 76.6 | -1 | 4.8 | 7.9 | -39 | 9 | 2.7 | 2 | 0.6 | 350 |
| 15.6 | 13.1 | 19 | 1 | 30.9 | 1 | 29.7 | 4 | 2 | 162.6 | 0 | 0 | *** | 75.9 | 61.8 | 23 | 5.6 | 8.4 | -33 | 3 | 1.5 | 3 | 1.5 | -0 |
| 16.1 | 7.2 | 122 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 290.7 | -100 | 2 | 174.5 | 0 | 0 | *** | 78.4 | 55.0 | 43 | 8.0 | 16.0 | -50 | 9 | 6.4 | 5 | 3.6 | 80 |
| 31.3 | 27.5 | 14 | 4 | 49.0 | 4 | 46.2 | 6 | 2 | 63.4 | 1 | 26.9 | 136 | 61.5 | 55.5 | 11 | 13.1 | 11.9 | 10 | 46 | 9.5 | 75 | 15.5 | -39 |
| 30.2 | 30.7 | -2 | 1 | 25.6 | 4 | 91.7 | -72 | 3 | 209.2 | 0 | 0 | *** | 62.6 | 60.3 | 4 | 14.7 | 10.8 | 36 | 5 | 2.1 | 6 | 2.5 | -17 |
| 14.7 | 11.8 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 67.8 | -100 | 2 | 93.0 | 1 | 36.8 | 153 | 85.3 | 68.2 | 25 | 6.3 | 11.1 | -43 | 5 | 1.7 | 2 | 0.7 | 150 |
| 12.9 | 7.2 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 0 | 0 | 4 | 230.3 | -100 | 70.5 | 66.5 | 6 | 5.9 | 15.9 | -63 | 8 | 3.2 | 3 | 1.2 | 167 |
| 4.4 | 3.7 | 19 | 3 | 92.9 | 2 | 56.8 | 64 | 2 | 159.9 | 3 | 183.9 | -13 | 77.2 | 76.1 | 1 | 8.5 | 21.0 | -60 | 5 | 2.6 | 0 | 0 | *** |
| 34.9 | 30.3 | 15 | 3 | 125.5 | 8 | 292.9 | -57 | 2 | 237.2 | 0 | 0 | *** | 83.9 | 68.6 | 22 | 10.6 | 19.0 | -44 | 14 | 9.7 | 4 | 2.8 | 250 |
| 12.2 | 6.5 | 88 | 1 | 22.3 | 3 | 65.9 | -66 | 2 | 114.6 | 4 | 216.0 | -47 | 80.8 | 74.0 | 9 | 5.7 | 7.3 | -22 | 3 | 1.1 | 5 | 1.8 | -40 |
| 20.3 | 11.8 | 73 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 91.7 | -100 | 3 | 241.7 | 0 | 0 | *** | 85.2 | 92.7 | -8 | 7.1 | 11.2 | -37 | 5 | 2.3 | 0 | 0.0 | *** |
| 18.8 | 14.6 | 29 | 7 | 62.5 | 11 | 91.8 | -32 | 8 | 207.8 | 3 | 60.8 | 242 | 70.2 | 74.3 | -6 | 6.9 | 10.3 | -33 | 68 | 10.1 | 46 | 6.8 | 48 |
| 29.1 | 23.8 | 23 | 12 | 66.1 | 13 | 69.0 | -4 | 8 | 130.3 | 0 | 0 | *** | 71.9 | 81.8 | -12 | 10.8 | 13.1 | -18 | 114 | 10.9 | 76 | 7.3 | 50 |
| 16.0 | 12.3 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 43.1 | -100 | 1 | 59.6 | 3 | 158.6 | -62 | 64.8 | 61.4 | 6 | 8.3 | 10.0 | -17 | 14 | 5.1 | 15 | 5.4 | -7 |
| 18.3 | 14.5 | 26 | 5 | 230.8 | 2 | 99.2 | 133 | 1 | 127.4 | 2 | 208.1 | -39 | 71.6 | 76.9 | -7 | 6.2 | 9.7 | -36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** |
| 16.8 | 20.7 | -19 | 2 | 84.3 | 2 | 90.7 | -7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | *** | 85.1 | 75.7 | 12 | 10.4 | 17.7 | -41 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2.4 | -100 |
| 18.6 | 20.7 | -10 | 2 | 45.8 | 4 | 90.0 | -49 | 6 | 360.6 | 1 | 58.5 | 516 | 75.1 | 97.7 | -23 | 8.7 | 11.5 | -24 | 26 | 9.5 | 4 | 1.5 | 550 |
| 13.0 | 13.0 | 0 | 3 | 117.5 | 1 | 35.2 | 234 | 2 | 195.5 | 1 | 83.3 | 135 | 73.0 | 64.0 | 14 | 7.0 | 9.6 | -27 | 3 | 1.9 | 3 | 1.9 | 0 |
| 26.1 | 19.2 | 36 | 3 | 45.4 | 2 | 31.2 | 46 | 4 | 198.8 | 0 | 0 | *** | 72.9 | 59.5 | 23 | 9.7 | 10.9 | -11 | 57 | 15.2 | 16 | 4.3 | 256 |

But
understand Mama, that the
Mississippi that I know and
love is totally different from
the Mississippi that they be
tryin' to push to us on T.V.
My Mississippi is a state full
of people I know and love.

*Bluesman*
Charlie B. Braxton
McComb

## What Neighborhoods and Communities Can Do

Whether your neighborhood or community is the largest county in the state or three stores and a post office, you can work within your neighborhood and community to make a difference for all of the children and their families making their home there.

- Support your local schools and their students, even if you don't have children in school.
- Encourage your church to serve the community's children as well as the congregation's children. Get everyone, young and old, involved in the community.
- Encourage community business and industry to develop family friendly workplaces that allow employees to participate more fully in the lives of their children.
- Know your community. Find and use data to assist in the direction of community policies and planning.
- Learn all you can about the availability of child care in your community. Child care keeps every one working, and research has shown quality child care is a cost effective way to ease the cycle of poverty for children.
- Encourage the availability and accessibility of local health care for everyone in your community.
- Hold local policymakers and community leaders accountable for decisions they make concerning education, health, social services and economic development.

## SOURCES

**Neighborhoods Data:**

Total Number of Children Living in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods - 1990 Census, Population and Housing, Census Tracts and Block Numbering Areas, Outside Metro Areas, Biloxi-Gulfport, MS MSA, Jackson, MS MSA and Pascagoula, MS MSA, Table 1.
Children Living in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods as a Percent of Total County Child Population - KIDS COUNT Mississippi computation.
Number of Children Living in Poverty in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods - 1990 Census, Population and Housing, Census Tracts and Block Numbering Areas, Outside Metro Areas, Biloxi-Gulfport, MS MSA, Jackson, MS MSA and Pascagoula, MS MSA, Table 19.
Percentage of Children Living in Poverty in County - 1990 Census, Social and Economic Characteristics, Mississippi, Table 10.
Percentage of Female-Headed Families in County - 1990 Census, Social, Economic and Housing Characteristics, Mississippi, Table 2.
Percentage of High School Dropouts in County - 1990 Census, Social, Economic and Housing Characteristics, Mississippi, Table 4.
Percentage of Males in County Over Age 16 Employed Less Than 26 Weeks Per Year - 1990 Census, Social and Economic Characteristics, Mississippi, Table 144 and Table 147.
Percentage of Families Receiving Public Assistance in County - 1990 Census, Social and Economic Characteristics, Mississippi, Table 149.

**County Data:**

Population Under Age 18 - 1990 Census of Population, General Population Characteristics, Table 1.
Population Under Age 18 as Percentage of Total - KIDS COUNT Mississippi calculation from 1990 Census.
Estimated Total Population, July 1992 - Department of Commerce, US Census Bureau.
Percentage Low Birth-weight Babies - Vital Statistics Mississippi 1994, Bureau of Information Resources, Division of Public Health Statistics, Mississippi State Department of Health, Table 6A; Vital Statistics Mississippi 1984, Bureau of Information Resources, Division of Public Health Statistics, Mississippi State Department of Health, Table 6.
Infant Mortality Rate - Vital Statistics Mississippi 1994, Bureau of Information Resources, Division of Public Health Statistics, Mississippi State Department of Health, Table 12B; Vital Statistics Mississippi 1984, Bureau of Information Resources, Division of Public Health Statistics, Mississippi State Department of Health, Table 12B.
Percentage of Population Receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children - MS Department of Human Services Fiscal Year 1994 Annual Report, Table of Percentage of MS Population Receiving AFDC in June 1994; MS Department of Public Welfare Fiscal Year 1988 Annual Report, Table of Percentage of MS Population Receiving AFDC in June 1988.
Women, Infant and Children Program Participation as a Percentage of Total Eligible for Participation - Participation Reports from the Division of Special Supplemental Food Program for Women and Infants and Children, MS State Department of Health.
Percentage of Students Eligible for Free Lunch Program - 1994 Mississippi Report Card, MS Department of Education; Fiscal Year 1992 School Lunch Free and Reduced Meal Applicant Enrollment Percentages by County, MS Department of Education.
Percentage of Births to Single Teen Mothers - KIDS COUNT Mississippi Calculations from Vital Statistics Mississippi 1994, Bureau of Information Resources, Division of Public Health statistics, MS Department of Health, Table 3A and Special Table; Vital Statistics Mississippi 1984, Bureau of Information Resources, Division of Public Health Statistics, MS State Department of Health, Table 3A and Special Table.
Child Death Rate - Data provided by Division of Public Health Statistics, MS State Department of Health.
Teen Death Rate - Data provided by Division of Public Health Statistics, MS State Department of Health.
Graduation Rate - 1994 Mississippi Report Card, MS Department of Education; 1989 Graduation Rates, MS Department of Education.
Annual Average Unemployment Rate - Annual Averages, Mississippi by Counties, 1985-1994, Labor Market Information Department, MS Employment Security Commission, April 1995.
Juvenile Incarcerations - Table-Juveniles Served in Institutions in Fiscal Year 1995 provided by Division of Youth Services, MS Department of Human Services; Fiscal Year 1991 Annual Report, MS Department of Human Services.

*One Child's Story*, an original play written by Beverly B. Blake, premiered at New Stage Theatre in Jackson on Sunday, October 22, 1995. The play was commissioned as a companion to the 1995 KIDS COUNT Mississippi Data Book. It tells the story of growing up in poverty through the eyes of a child. *One Child's Story* is available for local performances. Call KIDS COUNT Mississippi for more information.

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